

The Whale's Tale



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Greetings once again, my esteemed baseball brethren! How can something that starts out so beautiful turn into something so ugly?..... Shame on you if you think I am talking about our middle aged wives. If your first thought was our wives, news flash, you need to look in a mirror, as father time has not been overly kind to you. No, I am talking about most of our teams on draft day. I loved my team better than any of my previous 20 some efforts on draft day. In fact, our vote resulted in an almost unanimous decision the Cubs would be in the money. What happened? Only God knows for sure, but here is my theory: Just like real major league baseball, our beloved HSL has two tiers, the large market guys, like Johnny, Mitch, Dave and occasionally Ted and Screech/Scott, who find themselves in a pennant race every year; and the rest of us who make up the small market teams. Just like the real small market teams, we have absolutely no chance of winning the HSL title, short of some miracle or fluke circumstances. For example, my one and only pennant came in a strike shortened season that I had no chance of winning if the season even lasted another week or two. Blongo's only title occurred when the stars aligned just right or as I like to call it, "divine intervention". The other theory is this: Blind luck.

If luck is the primary force behind winning, then why have 3 guys won 10 of the last 14 titles, with Johnny winning 4 times and Dave & Mitch winning 3 times each. In fact these guys have collectively lost only 4 times going back to 1990, when most of us were in our early 30's, had hair, were in pretty good physical shape and were still single. The 4 small market winners were my strike shortened season in 1994, Blongo's divine intervention in 1998, the pennant Scott bought in 1996 and Ted's title in 2000. Actually, Ted and Scott are quasi large market teams, having

been involved in a few pennant races over the years, while the rest of us are beating each other up trying to secure the last two spots in the upper division.

The internet has neutralized the better information theory since we all have access to the same great information on all the players. So here is my question for the San Diego trip: Since we all have the same information, how come the same "large market teams" keep winning all the titles?

Denny hit the blind luck theory on the head when he had this say about Johnny's outfield: "If I had the outfield of Burrell, Griffey, Jr. and Drew, two of them would be on the DL and the other would be batting .200." Well stated, Brother Denny. I could not have said it any better.

My only prediction for the 2004 HSL title is this: we are looking at one heck of a pennant race. On a projected points basis, there are 5 teams within 150 points of the lead and Mitch is closing hard in sixth place. Big Guy is coming off a monster 484 point week and has Kevin Brown available in the near future. Jim is also poised for a money finish. Other than that it is much the same as years past, Ted trying to squeeze one of the big 3 out of money spot. For the rest of our teams, also just as in years past, there is always next year.

UPPER DIVISION

1.	Wahoos	6135.5
2.	Skipjacks	6017.0
3.	Senators	5940.0
4.	Tigers	5861.0
5.	Redbirds	5853.0
6.	Reds	5636.5

LOWER DIVISION

7.	Pirates	5586.0
8.	Cubs	5359.5
9.	Bombers	5326.5
10.	Chiefs	5316.0
11.	Blues	5088.0
12.	Tribe	4268.0

1.	Tigers	483.5
2.	Bombers	441.0
3.	Senators	438.5
4.	Reds	419.0
5.	Skipjacks	387.0
6.	Blues	378.5
7.	Wahoos	372.0
8.	Cubs	365.0
9.	Redbirds	363.0

10. Tribe	332.0
11. Chiefs	313.0
12. Irates	252.0

TOP HITTERS BY POSITION

Catcher		Shortstop	
1. V. Martinez	418	1. C. Guillen	464
2. I. Rodriguez	395	2. Tejada	449
3. Lopez	361	3. M. Young	431
4. Posada	334	4. J. Wilson	357
5. Kendall	332	5. Jeter	341
1st Base		Left Field	
1. Pujols	450	1. Bonds	489
2. Helton	430	2. Ramirez	445
3. Ortiz	427	3. Berkman	391
4. Thome	411	4. Dunn	387
5. Hafner	400	5. J. Guillen	373
2nd Base		Center Field	
1. Loretta	415	1. Beltran	411
2. Soriano	377	2. Edmonds	385
3. Bellhorn	350	3. Damon	380
4. Belliard	334	4. Burnitz	362
5. Kent	318	5. Finley	344
3rd Base		Right Field	
1. Rolen	427	1. Abreu	456
2. Beltre	398	2. V. Guerrero	447
3. Blalock	398	3. Drew	435
4. A. Rod	395	4. M.Cabrera	381
5. Castilla	387	5. Sheffield	380

TOP PITCHERS

Starters		Relievers (including MR*)	
1. Johnson	404	1. Rivera	400
2. Schmidt	385	2. Benitez	387
3. Sheets	366	3. Gagne	374
4. Clemens	338	4. Nathan	350
5. Mulder	330	5. Graves	331
6. Schilling	325	6. F. Cordero	330
7. Santana	323	7. Lidge	319
8. Pavano	301	8. Mesa	318
9. Glavine	297	9. *F. Rod	317
10. F. Garcia	296	10. *Gordon	311