

THE BELLYFLOP

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Editor: Underbelly



2006 Season

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STANDINGS

1.	Bears	10390.00
2.	Wahoo's	10252.75
3.	Reds	10195.00
4.	Chiefs	10131.75
5.	Skipjacks	9969.50
6.	Tigers	9868.00
7.	Redbirds	9824.00
8.	Cubs*	9796.00
9.	Bombers	9630.50
10.	Senators	9361.00
11.	Blues	9294.50
12.	Tribe	8779.75

THE WEEK THAT WAS

1.	Redbirds	578.75
2.	Tigers	470.00
3.	Reds	435.00
4.	Wahoo's	428.75
5.	Chiefs	428.75
6.	Skipjacks	426.50
7.	Senators	412.25
8.	Tribe	373.00
9.	Bears	345.00
10.	Cubs*	316.50

11. Blues 295.50
12. Bombers 254.50

DA BEARS

I'm sure most of you have attributed Denny's success to the simple act of changing his team name to the childlike "Bears". So Jim, Mouse, you might want to think of a name change. Heck, since I've been writing this I'm starting to warm up to the idea myself. Maybe "The Chickens" or "The Donkeys". But I'm not ready to give the title to the Bears quite yet. You see, I know Denny's luck. I'm not talking about injuries or trades or bad managerial decisions. I'm talking about the supernatural happenings that occur in the circles of a séance, or around the campfire of a Voodoo ritual, or in the back of a Gypsy wagon. I'm talking about curses, bad MoJo, BAD LUCK. And don't think it doesn't exist. I know Jim and Mouse wear a suit to work each day, but I'll bet if you look under their shirt they are both wearing necklaces of shrunken heads and chicken feet. Hell, I polish my monkey skull every morning and every night before I go to bed. After 21 years of futility you would think I would start using a little more elbow grease.

It's been an interesting season to say the least and not without its controversies. 1 and 1A entries in a Del Mar claiming race? Ouch! That's like picking on a retarded kid, isn't it? I keep having this vision of Possum wiggling into a yellow jersey, hoisting the HSL trophy over his head and getting an obligatory peck on the cheek from a couple of local beauties and then praying to the God of Skinny Stockbrokers that he was able to take advantage of a flawed point system. In true Red Sox fan fashion; he has conjured up more conspiracies than Oliver Stone. It's too bad Ryan Howard is listed towards the top of Denny's roster on Yahoo, because if he would just let his eyes scroll down a little further he would see that everyone on his team has been hot all year. I think we are all in agreement that the point system needs an oil change and I'm sure next year we will be able to rectify that glitch. Yet on one hand, the fact that I've finished last for the 21 consecutive year means we aren't that far off from an accurate system. On the other hand, the fact that Denny finished anywhere near the top means there is work to do. On the other hand, the fact that Dave finally finished where he was suppose too, means we're probably damn close to getting this thing right. Let's just give the winner an asterisk, print his name and date on the bottom of the trophy and call it good. Truth be said, I've lost interest. My season lasts about 4 ½ hours, from 1:00pm to 5:30pm on Draft Day. I'm probably the only one in the league that can start working on my fantasy football league draft on the drive home.

Mostly, this has been a nightmare of a summer. I've spent more time painting, moving, repairing things, painting, getting ready for two different auctions, painting and suffering through my usual baseball season. These are the highlights, if you want to call them that.

MOVING

We decided to move this summer and downsize from a two story with a pool to a townhouse that an agoraphobic nun would feel cramped in. I'm like any other guy, I could live in a Teepee with a dirt floor as long as it had a TV, bed and refrigerator. This whole move thing is draining. Those boxes of photo albums you have in the basement of Uncle Fred and Aunt

Edna from the 40's and 50's? Do yourself, your kids, your kids, kids a favor and wheel them down to the curb. Someone has to pull the trigger on them and it might as well be you. You don't look at them and I guarantee they won't either. When you look at a picture and have to say "who's this?" Pitch it. The plus to all of this is I just may have mowed my last lawn. Ever. And that's bad news if you hold stock in Honda, Toro, Snapper, Sears, Lawnboy, Murray or John Deere. When I pushed the Cushman down to the curb, I gave the muffler a last "Love Ya" kick and I'll be damned if I didn't trip over the back wheel. Right to the very end.

PAINTING

For the love of God who invented paint? Mowing sucks, and raking leaves is no day at the beach but painting is in a league of its own. I wonder if all the great painters were saddled with the same frustrations that I have had to endure. These are the times you get to know more about your spouse than you really want to. Jody's Native American nickname is "Jody Two Coats", because after everything that could be painted, after I finally put the brush down and declared victory, I was immediately hit with "Hmmm, that's going to need another coat". Black on black, two coats. White on white, two coats. I'll bet Davinci didn't have someone looking over his shoulder. We're also picking out flooring, cabinets, faucets, lighting fixtures and such. I'm sure I'm just like the rest of you guys, I'm good with everything. "Oh Yeah, I love it", "Oh, that perfect", "Wow, you really have a gift" I don't care, but Jody agonizes over every decision. "Do you think these colors will go together?" "Will stainless steel show fingerprints?" "Will the plant shelves show dirt?" I have this terrible feeling that when all is said and done she won't like it. It reminds me of my sister Jeri. When she was in Junior High and High School she would cut out a picture out of a magazine and take it to the hair saloon, then she would come home afterwards crying, EVERY SINGLE TIME. "I was suppose to look like Marlo Thomas!" I don't look like her at all!" No shit, maybe if you could have talked Marlo into dying her hair brown and wearing pink cat rim glasses you'd be on the same page.

BRIT HUME

How many G's does the typical newscaster experience during a newscast? Because this guy is pulling at least 6 or 7. He always looks like he's in the first stage of lift off at Cape Canaveral. He could give you an accurate inventory of what's in his shirt pocket at any given time without looking down. He must have the same cameraman as Katy Couric, I know she's got that "Imp" thing going, but why do they put the camera at least a foot above them. Hume, looks like Droopy doing the news, he looks so funereal that I actually want to send him money. I must not be the only person who thinks Brit needs a makeover, I see where he's going to star in a reality show with ESPN's Michael Irvin called "Pimp My Newscaster". I'm sure Irvin and maybe a crack whore or two think he's styling, but honestly where does he get those threads? Granted, I get my "Sunday go to meetin" clothes at Wal-Mart and Walgreen's, but seriously I don't think the Dollar Store or the Kum and Go would carry that line.

DAVE KURALT

I think we can all agree that the most enjoyable reads this summer were Dave's recaps of all the baseball parks he was lucky enough to visit during the course of the year. I felt like I was there myself. I can't imagine a better compliment.

CHIPOLTE PEPPER

OK, who took it upon themselves to take up the flag for the Chipolte pepper? Did some Mexican scientist just create it? The last 3 or 4 years I've seen Chipolte restaurants open up, Burger King, Wendy's and Sonic have Chipolte sauces. What's up with that? It's the most amazing marketing phenomenon that I've ever seen. Why not Mango's or oysters or Brazil nuts, who anointed the Chipolte pepper?

BLUE TOOTH

I have the utmost respect and admiration for each and every one of you, unless of course you wear a Blue Tooth. For those of you who don't know what a Blue Tooth is (Denny?) it's a phone you wear in your ear. There are 2 people that need a phone in their ear. 1. Doctors who are waiting word on an organ transplant and 2. Some poor guy who is waiting on instructions from the kidnapers on where to drop off the ransom money. Some lady who looked like Larry the Cable Guy's wife came into Taco Inn the other day wearing one. She was either the head of a lawn crew or Mayor Seng, I couldn't tell. There is just something unnerving about watching someone eat and talk to themselves. It was like watching the Rainman eat lunch. So, unless you need an organ or lost a kid, don't wear one. You look ridiculous.

VACATION

I was going to mention my vacation to our oldest son's place in Thief River Falls (cool name) Minnesota and my ATV story. Let's just say there were some injuries, some broken equipment, there may even have been some crying involved, a couple hundred dollars of Omaha Steaks accompanied by some apologies letters and strict instructions that if I ever visit again that I will only be allowed to play with the dogs in the backyard and only if there is adult supervision.

PENNANT RACE

It looks like it's shaping up to be a great race to the finish. Good luck to the Bears, Wahoo's, Reds and Chiefs. GIT R DONE.

Bob

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TOP TEN HITTERS THRU 24 WEEKS

1.	R. Howard	Bears	720.00
2.	A. Pujols	Skipjacks	696.75
3.	D. Ortiz	Wahoos	682.00
4.	Mi. Cabrera	Bears	669.50
5.	D. Jeter	Redbirds	654.50
6.	C. Utley	Bears	646.75
7.	Jos. Reyes	Senators	634.00
8.	C. Beltran	Chiefs	626.50
9.	A. Soriano	Skipjacks	622.25
10.	J. Dye	Senators	619.75

TOP TEN PITCHERS THRU 24 WEEKS

1.	Jo. Santana	Senators	651.00
2.	C. Carpenter	Chiefs	562.50
3.	B. Webb	Redbirds	559.00
4.	R. Halladay	Skipjacks	545.50
5.	B. Arroyo	Wahoos	538.50
6.	Fr. Rodriguez	Bears	518.00
7.	C. Zambrano	Wahoos	505.50
8.	J. Smoltz	Cubs*	501.50
9.	J. Putz	Chiefs	501.00
10.	B. Wagner	Blues	497.50