

From the Bullpen

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2006 Season

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BEAR NECESSITY

As we move into the last week of the season, it appears that SloPay's boys are really going to win this thing, after almost two decades of frustration. However, not wanting to jinx our unlucky friend, I will stop short of predicting victory for SloPay's team. With a 228.5-point lead and only one week to go in the season, though, it is safe to say that the **Bears** are the frontrunner.

Here are the standings through 25 weeks:

STANDINGS THRU WEEK 25

1.	Bears	10959.50
2.	Wahoos	10731.00
3.	Reds	10655.50
4.	Chiefs	10528.00
5.	Tigers	10315.75
6.	Skipjacks	10305.25
7.	Cubs*	10296.25
8.	Redbirds	10278.50
9.	Bombers	9931.50
10.	Senators	9887.75
11.	Blues	9510.75
12.	Tribe	9109.50

WEEK 25 POINT TOTALS

1.	Bears	569.50
2.	Senators	526.75
3.	Cubs*	500.25
4.	Wahoos	478.25
5.	Reds	460.50
6.	Redbirds	454.50
7.	Tigers	447.75
8.	Chiefs	397.00
9.	Skipjacks	335.75

10.	Tribe	329.75
11.	Bombers	301.50
12.	Blues	215.25

DUGOUT DIGS



Notwithstanding all of the breast-beating, whining, carping, moaning, sniveling, whimpering, lashing out and gnashing of teeth from the Possum Hutch, it is evident that SloPay not only picked the best team on Draft Day this season, but that he also out-piloted the rest of the league. The Ryan Howard for the Fresh Prince of Bel Air trade, while transparently collusive, and undeniably fraudulent, is not the reason that the **Bears** are going to win this thing this year. Not unlike McBlunder in 1998, SloPay's squad was put together under a once in a lifetime alignment, and Denny is the benefactor of more lightning in a bottle than Ben Franklin could ever have hoped to have harnessed.



There is a bully of a race going on between the **Cubs***, **Tigers**, **Skipjacks** and **Redbirds** for those ever-coveted 5th and 6th place positions. Nobody wants to be in that ugly Lower Division.



My squad was cruising along through the week and looking good to pass up the **Bombers**, particularly in light of their undeniable pitching caps woes. Then, after three or four nights in a row of 100+ points for the **Senators**, suddenly I looked at the screen and saw that I was about to blow through the pitching cap limit myself. How did that happen?

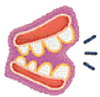


The **Bears'** total of 569.50 for Week 25 has to be one of the top two or three weekly point totals for the season. Talk about finishing strong. Nicely done, Dennis.



At the other end of the spectrum, the **Blues'** sickly total of 216.25 points for Week 25 has to be one of the lowest, if not the lowest, weekly totals for the year. Can you say, *I give up!*

CLUBHOUSE CHATTER



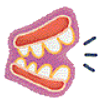
Can you believe all of the excitement (not) at Bonds' breaking of Aaron's National League career home run record? The guy is a pariah, with a capital P.



The September swoon of the Cardinals will rival the '64 Phillies if they continue losing this week and fail to make the playoffs. Not pretty.



I just heard that Judge Judy signed a new contract for \$23,000,000 a year. So wrong, for so many reasons.



Has Stuart Scott really bettered himself by going to the Gotti diamond earring look? Get some dignity, Stu.



Is there a less likable talking head sports loudmouth than Woody Paige? I guess if you can't write, then you should be obnoxious, outrageous and yell constantly. His parents must be very proud.

CLOSING

As our season winds down to its final days, the best of luck to all in improving your Draft position for next year.
Go **Senators!**

Skipper