

THE CRIMSON CHIRPER

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2006 Season

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RANDOM THOUGHTS

Well, we are two weeks into 2006 season and all in all the new Yahoo! Sports fantasy system seems to be working pretty smoothly. There are some really cool features to the new system that hopefully everyone has been using. The Stat Tracker feature is a lot of fun. If you haven't been on this part of the system, look at the menu at the login area where it indicates launch Stat Tracker. The Stat Tracker provides a continuous update of the individual statistics for your players and points as they are accumulated through the day and night. Also, it has a feature that allows you to see the total points being scored by each team and a continuous standings update. There is also a team stats portion that you can click on that allows you to see both the league stats for the day and for the season. Pretty cool stuff. I have also used the lineup analysis feature which I am sure particularly fascinates Ted. As best I can tell, it tries to project a recommended lineup based upon historical stats. It is somewhat flawed as to pitchers, but it is probably statistically useful for setting your lineup for hitters.

I am waiting with bated breath to see how the Barry Bonds fiasco will turn out. My best guess is that in the very near future there will be some type of Bonds implosion. I just don't see how he can weather the media and public opinion storm that awaits him throughout the course of the season. Justice will be served and that will not be a good thing for Mr. Bonds.

I am looking very much forward to our St. Louis excursion two months from now. The new ballpark appears to be, and by all reports is, a wonderful ballpark. Further, barring injury, we will have the chance to watch the best hitter in the game in action. Even though he is a Skipjack, it is hard not to like this guy. He is simply a "ballplayer."

How about the performance of some of the veteran pitchers, *e.g.*, Maddux, Pedro, Glavine. Despite not having any of these chiseled veterans on my squad, it is just a beautiful thing to watch them pitch.

GOOD THINGS, BAD THINGS

<u>Team Name</u>	<u>Good Things</u>	<u>Bad Things</u>
Reds	Pitching staff has performed exceptionally led by Beckett, Harden, Papelbon.	Except for Teixeira, it appears that hitting may be little on the short side over the long haul.
Redbirds	Don't need to go much further than Chris Shelton, but I must say that I really like my offensive squad. Even though Shelton will come back to the mean, I think there is much depth in this hitting squad from both an average and power standpoint.	Very poor start for the starting pitching although very strong recent outings from top starters Contreras, Peavy, Duke and Myers. How about the mismanagement by having Myers on the bench for his 1-0 gem in Coors Field.
Tigers	Big Guy has a very, very solid starting squad of pitchers, particularly when Sheets and likely Clemens are pitching full time. A.J. Burnett likely will also get into the act before the season is over. I say look out for the Tigers.	Nearly all of Big Guy's starting rotation is very susceptible to season-plaguing or -ending injuries, but then again he realized that when he was drafting the oldest pitching squad known to the Hot Stove League. Big Guy's depth in hitting is also problematic, although there is plenty of potential for an average or above average hitting squad.
Skipjacks	Pujols, Rolen, Hafner, Soriano, to name a few. Pretty scary stuff.	Very questionable starting pitching and a dreadful core of relievers. Reminds me of many Tribe pitching staffs from the past.
Blues	Good but not great talent throughout. If Giambi, Damon, Abreu and Gomes all perform to their potential talent, he is solid enough across the board in both hitting and pitching to remain in the Upper Division throughout the year.	Three players on his squad presently on the DL and very questionable starting pitching depth. The Yahoo! system permits a continuous rotation of starting pitchers and Blongo will come out on the short end of this play with the staff as presently constituted.

<u>Team Name</u>	<u>Good Things</u>	<u>Bad Things</u>
Bears	Denny appears to have his eye on the ball. A squad filled with young potential superstars. The name change can't hurt.	It's hard for me to be too critical as I don't know who half of the players on this squad are or who they play for. I'm skeptical as to whether such a young squad can prevail over the long haul.
Cubs*	Konerko, Helton, Vidro, Blalock and Tejada all solid, consistent performers and the pitching staff is solid but not spectacular, with a potential for 100+ saves.	I don't have a lot of bad things to say about this squad except that the outfield is a little on the weak side. Clearly, a contender for an Upper Division finish.
Wahoos	Pretty solid hitting team anchored by star performers Ortiz and Berkman. If Drew, Lopez and Crosby stay healthy and Kent recovers, certainly a competitive hitting squad.	Pitching staff full of flakes and flukes, e.g., Zambrano, Vazquez, Arroyo, Weaver and Wood.
Chiefs	Another well-balanced pitching and hitting squad, with three top-notch starters.	Beltran is <i>persona non grata</i> in New York and Gagne's career-ending injury.
Tribe	Very funny <i>Bullpen</i> writer.	A roster generally devoid of good talent and inexplicably with two empty roster spots.
Bronx Bombers	I really like the hitting squad led by Thome, Ramirez, Matsui and Sheffield. The Rios pickup should pay huge dividends. Chris Carpenter is a stud.	Except for Carpenter and Rivera, very up-and-down mediocre pitching staff. Nevertheless, and you heard it here first, this squad (even with minus 3 output last evening) also has Upper Division potential.
Senators	Solid pitching squad and Santana has not yet pitched lights out, but will.	Horrid outfield and overall below average offensive squad; it will take managerial wizardry to make this an Upper Division squad; and with T.B.'s \$200 wager on the line, I am certain there will at least be managerial diligence.

CONCLUSION

I'm so happy to have my *Bullpen* duties completed. I think I'll go home and have a Budweiser. Go Redbirds!

Jim

Week 2 Standings

1.	Reds	973.75
2.	Redbirds	886.00
3.	Tigers	836.00
4.	Blues	814.75
5.	Chiefs	806.75
6.	Cubs*	788.50
7.	Tribe	773.50
8.	Bears	767.00
9.	Skipjacks	762.25
10.	Senators	755.75
11.	Wahoos	733.25
12.	Bombers	658.50

Week 2 Point Totals

1.	Reds	552.25
2.	Redbirds	444.25
3.	Chiefs	443.25
4.	Bears	442.50
5.	Tigers	438.25
6.	Tribe	416.75
7.	Senators	409.50
8.	Cubs*	401.75
9.	Blues	393.50
10.	Bombers	338.25
11.	Wahoos	324.00
12.	Skipjacks	305.00