

The Monarch Missive



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Last year Brother Shamu brilliantly exploited a point value aberration to ride a fleet of relievers masquerading as starters to the HSL Crown. How is McBlunder creating a mockery of the league in this, the Year of the Blues? By astutely bucking the tradition of focusing on the power "corner" positions to win "up the middle."

Position	Player	Rank at Position
C	McCann	1
2nd	Pedroia	3
SS	Reyes	2
CF	Hamilton	1
1st	Delgado	15
3rd	Longoria	11
LF	Ludwick	9
RF	Ordonez	18

Of course having 4 of the top 14 scoring starting pitchers doesn't hurt.

Lee (1)
Haren (3)
Volquez (9)
Duchscherer (14)

Or it could be luck. Congratulations Blongo, begin planning how to spend your winnings.

Ramblings...

- I recently read where Steve Bartman turned down a \$25,000 offer to sign just one picture of his moment of infamy. He's either a far better man than any of us or a complete idiot.

- Word of advice to my HSL Brethren: if a future HSL trip takes you to a city where the sister you haven't seen in 3 years lives, and you don't visit her, don't let her find out you were there. Mine wasn't having any of my "but it was the annual Hot Stove League trip and it was a new stadium" defense.
- July 24th marked the 25th anniversary of the Pine Tar Game. Seems like just yesterday, ok maybe not yesterday, but not that long ago, that Brett stormed out of the dugout, eyes aflame, looking to "kill those SOBs." Link to a story on the game with some great insight from game participants:
http://sports.espn.go.com/mlb/columns/story?columnist=kurkjian_tim&id=3502239
- The best All-Star Game finish that nobody saw? If MLB wants to capture the hearts of the next generation of baseball fans they need to move up the start of the All-Star game. Extra innings or not, the Mid-Season Classic should be positioned as the event every young lad begs his parents to be able to stay up late and watch to conclusion.
- From the Department of WTF. Seattle sending back-up catcher Jamie Burke to the mound in an extra inning 1-1 tie. I understand he's Arthur Rhodes, but if you have a fresh arm in the bullpen don't you bring him in? What kind of message does that send your fan base? Between the Sonics leaving town and the Mariners battling for the MLB cellar with their \$126 million payroll the fine people of Seattle have to be looking forward to Seahawks Fall Camp.
- Francisco Liriano's line sure would look good in the Monarch's scorebook. 0.26 ERA over last 5 starts, covering 35 innings, with a 42:4 K:BB ratio. Yes, I know it's against Triple-A batters, but a guy can dream.
- The lowest scoring (season points) player currently on a HSL roster is proud Monarch Andrew Jones. His pathetic 72 points accumulated in 181 ABs trails such HSL denizens as Denard Span (87 pts in 92 ABs) and Kelly Shoppach (144 pts in 178 ABs).

As Skipper touched on in one of his Bullpen submissions, after lying his way through the interview and mastering the secret handshake the Ernst clan has driven their stake in the sand next to Chateau Screech at the exclusive and borderline elitist Rainbow Lake. A few early observations about the Swiss Family Clampett.

- Despite Dave's interference Cheryl seems to have raised four well-mannered, respectful, fun kids. Speaking of Cheryl...
- You have to respect a wife that knows her way around a staple gun and is willing to climb a ladder to hang porch screens. She worked tirelessly from sun-up to sun-down the first weekend out. I'm thinking about trying to slip a few of my projects on to her to-do list. Now if only Skipper could follow suit and lift a finger.
- Ok, not true, I saw a side of E I haven't seen before. If he worked as hard managing his team as he did the first weekend at the Lake he wouldn't be mired in the bowels

of the league. Skip, I hope the level of sweat equity you invested in that one weekend isn't a sign of things to come. I'm already getting the "see how much Dave has gotten done today" from Mrs. Screech.

- Cautionary Note: I'm fine with the kids calling me Screech, in fact I find it endearing. However, Dave, if Karen hears one more Mrs. Screech I can't guarantee the offending child will live to see a second season at your seraglio in the sand.
- Huge Black Lab = Huge Black Lab "dooties." Now if only those sand mines we're on Lab owner's beach instead of neighbor's.

Seriously though Skip, we're looking forward to many fun seasons at the lake with you and yours.

Best of luck the rest of the season Boys.

Screech