



From the Bullpen

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Baseball Brethren:

Now *that* was a Winter Meeting! Happily, I think that we have stumbled upon the precise combination of circumstances and elements for a rousing January celebration: good friends, good steaks, cold beer, lively topics of conversation (easy, SloPay, simmer down – it's just table talk), skullcaps, a mechanical bull, and most critically, Jägerbombs! (**Always** a good idea!)

Unfortunate for Jim Ed that his hunting trip to take out Bambi conflicted with the Winter Meeting, and that the Mouse's Spouse found it more important for him to celebrate his 50th birthday with her than to get a snootful with us. For reasons unknown, Possum chose once again to snub the league winner and boycott the Winter Meeting, and so as his punishment we will wait until the 23rd round of the Draft to disclose all of the new rule changes to him which we reunaniously passed that evening.

Thanks to Sir Charles for our handsome new league garments; to B.T. for our undeniably *sui generis* HSL skullcaps – mandatory wearing at the Draft and on the Trip; to Big Guy for sharing with us the myth of the Maris asterisk; to Stretch for traveling the greatest distance to attend our little function; to Underbelly and SloPay for venturing to the Big O from the Star City and spilling their guts about their leftist political proclivities; and to the whole group of ten who attended to make Shamu's big night all the more special. Good company and good cheer.

DRAFT DAY: MARCH 29?

It is time to get Draft Day on our calendars. Opening Day is officially Monday, March 31, although it appears that the Nationals will open up their new park in D.C. on Sunday the 30th. Should we draft on **Saturday, March 29**, in the afternoon? If anyone has any conflicts, please communicate them at once.

THE TRIP

The Nationals are at home three different weekends in June. Possum has already indicated that he can only attend the first weekend in June, which would be June 6-8. ***How many would commit to going to D.C. on Friday, June 6, returning on Sunday, June 8?*** How many of those people would also want to take the train from D.C. to the Big Apple to see a game at Yankee Stadium during its final season?

Let's hear all about it, gentlemen.

Skipper