

# The Whale's Tale

Official Publication Of  
**The Cubs\***  
Special Edition Of  
**From the Bullpen**  
Guest Editor: **Shamu**



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2008 Season

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Blongo, you have made a mockery of this baseball season. Congratulations on your incredible team performance and for the rest of us, there is always next year. My only prediction is that my team will drop faster than a Yagerbomb in Johnny's hands. It was a pretty run for my aged veterans but the season is about six weeks too long . . . . .

With a recent trip to San Francisco, I have now completed my quest to attend a game in every current stadium. Since the HSL baseball season has been over for us since June, thanks to Blongo, this Bullpen will be short and sweet.

Below are my top ten baseball stadiums:

10. St. Louis
9. Atlanta
8. Pittsburgh
7. Colorado
6. Detroit
5. Cleveland
4. San Diego
3. Baltimore
2. Texas
1. San Francisco

Have a great fall and Go Huskers!

## FROM THE BULLPEN

In light of Sir Charles' hectic work and personal schedule these past few weeks (hey, it's not easy working in 60 hours of time to watch the Summer Olympics, on top of his already crushing commitments to watching baseball, golf, motocross and fantasy football mock drafts), it is understandable that he was forced to keep his

offering to the Hot Stove League to what he could peck out on his Remington during commercial breaks. But as they say, brevity is the essence of wit, or something like that. Or as Shamu always says, good things come in small packages. Anyway, thanks to Brother Shamu for taking the time to report in and provide us with his Top Ten List of Favorite Baseball Parks.

Moreover, congratulations to Shamu for completing the circuit! Brother Charles has now been to a baseball game in all 30 of the current major league venues. Well done, good friend. Nobody deserves it more.

Because of the relative brevity of this season's Whale's Tale, and because I can, I am including herewith a few numbers from Week 21 and my report on a beautiful little jewel of a baseball park located over in Davenport, Iowa, hard by the Mississippi River, home of the Quad Cities River Bandits.

### **WEEK 21 STANDINGS**

1.	Blues	10360.4
2.	Cubs	9993.8
3.	Monarchs	9843.0
4.	Wahoos	9542.2
5.	Highlanders	9528.3
6.	Chiefs	9457.9
7.	Bears	9291.7
8.	Bombers	9198.2
9.	Skipjacks	9172.9
10.	Redbirds	8714.5
11.	Senators	8523.7
12.	Tigers	8480.8
13.	Tribe	8431.3

### **POINTS DURING WEEK 21**

1.	Cubs	523.0
2.	Chiefs	517.9
3.	Monarchs	482.2
4.	Redbirds	476.3
5.	Bombers	473.8
6.	Bears	472.8
7.	Skipjacks	468.5
8.	Wahoos	448.9
9.	Highlanders	429.4
10.	Tribe	424.1
11.	Tigers	393.4
12.	Blues	390.4
13.	Senators	381.8

- \*\* Although it still isn't much of a race, Shamu's **Cubs** and Screech's **Monarchs** are chipping away at McJester's heretofore seemingly impregnable lead. With only five weeks of play left in the season, it seems doubtful that either of these clubs will be able to complete this chasmic leap, but maybe they can at least make it interesting at the end.
- \*\* Although the three money finishers for this season appear to be decided, the battle for 4th place promises to be pitched right down to the final day of the season. There are six teams (**Wahoos, Highlanders, Chiefs, Bears, Bombers** and **Skipjacks**) who have less than 400 points separating them, and three of them boys (Possum, Tricky and B.T.) are separated by a mere 85 points.
- \*\* Lower on down the elevator shaft, it appears that Tirebiter has rallied his chirpy little **Redbirds** sufficiently to garner him the 10th place position for the season, while the **Senators, Tigers** and **Tribe** have fewer than 100 points separating them as they all scramble to avoid the humiliation, embarrassment and abject shame that attend the league owner who finishes the season in the league outhouse. While only a few weeks ago it appeared that U-Baldo had a death grip on both sides of the league toilet bowl, his recent trip to the mountaintop with B.T. and SloPay to worship Obama and Scranton Joey seems to have revived his once-dispirited team into making a serious move on the 12th place position.

#### TOP HITTERS THROUGH WEEK 21

1.	Lance Berkman	Tribe	627.3
2.	Albert Pujols	Cubs	613.1
3.	David Wright	Monarchs	590.8
4.	Matt Holladay	Chiefs	589.6
5.	Carlos Quentin	Skipjacks	583.0

#### TOP PITCHERS THROUGH WEEK 21

1.	Tim Lincecum	Skipjacks	649.0
2.	Brandon Webb	Cubs	639.0
3.	C.C. Sabathia	Senators	638.0
4.	Cliff Lee	Blues	628.0
5.	Roy Holladay	Monarchs	623.5

#### WHO'S HOT Points during Week 21

##### HITTERS

1.	Pujols	Cubs	48.8
2.	Sizemore	Wahoos	46.5
3.	Teixeira	Bears	43.9

4.	Hardy	Senators	43.5
5.	DeRosa	Senators	43.1

#### PITCHERS

1.	Ricky Nolasco	Wahoos	85.0
2.	Rich Harden	Skipjacks	83.0
3.	Barry Zito	Tigers	59.0
4.	Kevin Slowey	Wahoos	57.0
5.	A.J. Burnett	Chiefs	52.0

#### WHO'S NOT Points during Week 21

#### HITTERS

1.	Jason Kubel	Skipjacks	-3.5
2.	Jimmy Rollins	Tigers	-2.9
3.	Casey Kotchman	Tribe	0.6

#### PITCHERS

1.	Daniel Cabrera	Redbirds	-24.0
2.	Sidney Ponson	Senators	-19.0
3.	Chad Gaudin	Monarchs	-10.0
4.	Yoakim Soria	Bears	-9.0
5.	Jeremy Sowers	Senators	-8.0

#### MODERN WOODMEN PARK, DAVENPORT, IOWA



I had to travel over to Davenport, Iowa, recently to prepare and present an expert witness for a deposition, and as luck would have it, the trip afforded me an opportunity to catch a Midwest League (A) game between the Quad Cities River Bandits and the Burlington Bees. The Tuesday night contest was held at cozy,

beautiful and reasonably modern Modern Woodmen Park, situated on the banks of the Mississippi River. Ah, my friends, it was a beautiful night for a baseball game. But then again, when isn't it?

The game began with a bang, as I was barely settled into my \$4.50 seat (half-price ticket night) in the second row behind the visitors' dugout when the Bees' leadoff hitter, David Lough, deposited an ill-placed, second-pitch fastball from hometown hurler Chuckie Fisk (yes, Chuckie, not Charles or Chuck) over the right field fence near or into the Mighty Mississippi. The suddenness of this blast almost caused me to spill my beer. Almost.



I stayed and watched and savored nine exquisite innings of play on a beautiful summer evening in a picturesque baseball setting. Oh, the glorious sights and sounds of a visit to a true baseball cathedral. From my seat in the second row, I could see a broad stretch of the Mississippi River, the very life-blood of each of the four communities forming the Quad in "Quad Cities"; two major bridges leading across it, the behemoth manmade spans connecting Iowegians with the Illini; an early-1900s bank building, which is probably Davenport's tallest structure; the Tiki Hut section behind the right fence; the Jack O'Donnell press box where the local scribes penned their reports of the intrastate contest; and blessedly, The Bier Stube only a few steps and stumbles away, where sons of Teuton and mortals alike can wet their whistles with hops and barley from the Fatherland.

Those were the sights at the ballpark. As for the sounds, they were plentiful and pleasing: the haunting train whistle from a locomotive on the tracks just beyond the left field of the ballpark, heard every other inning or so; the bellowing and excited announcement of every hometown Bandits player when he came to bat, with the verve and style of a Las Vegas boxing announcer, contrasted with the

monotone mere mention of the next Bee hitter in the top half of each inning; the canned Vincent Price-like evil laugh when a flailing Bee struck out at the plate; the country music between innings; and the competing cheers and heckles between the loyal hometown Davenport fans and the spirited visiting Burlington cranks.



Ambience? The word is defined by that evening at that ballpark.

All that, and Rascal the devilish-masked raccoon mascot, too. Who could ask for anything more?



After Lough homered to start the game, the Bandits tied it up in the bottom of the 2nd, and the game remained close enough to keep everyone's attention, eventually ending in a 5-1 Bees victory. Although I didn't recognize a single player name from either roster of these Single-A clubs, former major leaguer Doug Henry is the pitching coach for the Burlington Bees, presumably just beginning to pay his coaching dues. Although there was lots of young talent on each team, it's anyone's guess as to whether any of these players will be able to make the long, slow climb up the ladder from Single-A to Double-A, from Double-A to Triple-A, and then finally, from Triple-A to the Show. One thing is certain: Every boy and every man on that field at Modern Woodmen Park share the dream of making that climb and getting to the Show, and none of them will forget their time on this rung of the ladder. Oh, to dream that dream.

## THE STATISTICS

<b>Year Opened</b>	1931; renovated 2004
<b>Capacity</b>	5,500
<b>Dimensions</b>	343L, 400C, 318R
<b>Suites</b>	20
<b>Playing Surface</b>	Grass
<b>Web Site</b>	<a href="http://riverbandits.com">riverbandits.com</a>
<b>Phone</b>	563/3-BANDIT
<b>Ticket Prices (2008)</b>	Club, \$12; Lower Box, \$9; Upper Box, \$8; Bleacher, \$7; Berm, \$5
<b>League</b>	<a href="#">Midwest League</a>
<b>Level</b>	Low Class A
<b>Parent</b>	St. Louis Cardinals
<b>Parking</b>	Free parking next to ballpark in paved and unpaved lots.
<b>Address/Directions</b>	209 S. Gaines St., Davenport. The ballpark is located on the west side of downtown Davenport. River Drive runs along the south side of downtown Davenport and the Mississippi River, and the ballpark is at the corner of Gaines Street and River Drive

## THE GAME

August 19, 2008

	<b>Final</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>E</b>	
<b>Burlington</b>		1	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	5	14	1	
<b>Quad Cities</b>		0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	2	

[Recap](#) | [Box](#) | [Game Story](#): [QC](#) | [BUR](#)  
 W: L. Cota (2-2, 3.77); L: J. Stambaugh (2-3, 5.93); SV:  
 B. Fisher (1)  
 HR: BUR: D. Lough (14).

Burlington		AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	AVG
Player											
<a href="#">Lough CF</a>		4	2	4	0	1	1	1	1	0	.268
<a href="#">Giavotella 2B</a>		5	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	.302

<a href="#">Moustakas 3B</a>	4	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	.268
<a href="#">Taylor 1B</a>	5	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	.239
<a href="#">Robinson DH</a>	5	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	.255
<a href="#">Francis RF</a>	4	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	.229
<a href="#">Walton LF</a>	4	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	2	.266
<a href="#">Rivera, J SS</a>	4	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	.243
<a href="#">Billick C</a>	5	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	.286
<a href="#">Cota, L P</a>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
<a href="#">Fisher P</a>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000

**BATTING**

**2B:** Robinson (20, Stambaugh), Billick (5, Stambaugh).

**3B:** Lough (11, Sanchez).

**HR:** Lough (14, 1st inning off Stambaugh, 0 on, 0 out).

**TB:** Lough 9; Giavotella; Moustakas; Taylor 2; Robinson 2; Francis; Walton; Rivera, J 2; Billick 2.

**RBI:** Lough (54), Moustakas (66), Francis (9), Walton (48).

**2-out RBI:** Francis; Walton.

**Runners left in scoring position, 2 out:** Robinson 3; Billick 3; Walton; Moustakas.

**GDP:** Rivera, J; Giavotella.

**Team LOB:** 13.

**BASERUNNING**

**SB:** Rivera, J (13, 2nd base off Rondon/Murphy).

**PO:** Taylor (1st base by Rondon).

**FIELDING**

**E:** Cota, L (2, pickoff).

**DP:** (Giavotella-Rivera, J-Taylor).

Quad Cities										
Player	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	AVG
<a href="#">Ingram LF</a>	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	.237
<a href="#">Bolívar, D 3B</a>	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	.251
<a href="#">Rivera 1B</a>	4	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	.284
<a href="#">Edwards RF</a>	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	.286
<a href="#">Pham CF</a>	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	.224
<a href="#">Chambers CF</a>	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.237
<a href="#">Murphy C</a>	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	.211
<a href="#">Peoples DH</a>	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	.195
<a href="#">Oeder 2B</a>	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	.180
<a href="#">Marmol SS</a>	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	.182
<a href="#">Stambaugh P</a>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
<a href="#">Maiques P</a>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
<a href="#">Spade P</a>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
<a href="#">Rondon P</a>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
<a href="#">Sanchez P</a>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
<a href="#">Gonzalez P</a>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000

**BATTING**

**TB:** Ingram; Bolívar, D; Rivera 2; Marmol.

**RBI:** Murphy (5).

**Runners left in scoring position, 2 out:** Peoples; Bolívar, D.

**SF:** Murphy.

**GDP:** Edwards.

**Team LOB:** 6.

**BASERUNNING**

**SB:** Edwards (1, 2nd base off Cota, L/Billick).

**FIELDING**

**E:** Rivera (3, fielding), Ingram (10, fielding).

**DP:** 2 (Oeder-Rivera, Marmol-Oeder-Rivera).

**Pickoffs:** Rondon (Taylor at 1st base).

Burlington									
Player	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR	ERA	
<a href="#">Cota, L (W, 2-2)</a>	5.0	4	1	0	2	5	0	3.77	
<a href="#">Fisher (S, 1)</a>	4.0	1	0	0	1	2	0	0.00	

Quad Cities									
Player	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR	ERA	



<a href="#">Stambaugh (L, 2-3)</a>	3.0	5	2	2	1	2	1	5.93
<a href="#">Maiques</a>	1.1	2	2	2	2	1	0	2.45
<a href="#">Spade</a>	1.2	3	0	0	0	2	0	3.86
<a href="#">Rondon</a>	1.0	3	1	0	0	1	0	2.45
<a href="#">Sanchez</a>	1.0	1	0	0	1	1	0	2.86
<a href="#">Gonzalez</a>	1.0	0	0	0	1	1	0	5.75

**WP:** Cota, L, Maiques.

**Ground outs-fly outs:** Cota, L 6-4, Fisher 4-6, Stambaugh 6-1, Maiques 0-3, Spade 1-2, Rondon 0-1, Sanchez 2-0, Gonzalez 1-1.

**Batters faced:** Cota, L 20, Fisher 14, Stambaugh 14, Maiques 8, Spade 8, Rondon 6, Sanchez 5, Gonzalez 4.

**Inherited runners-scored:** Spade 2-1.

**Umpires:** HP: Justin Sassman. 1B: Matt Neuhold. 2B: . 3B: .

**Weather:** 80 degrees, clear.

**Wind:** 1 mph, Varies.

**T:** 2:50.

**Att:** 3,314.

## CLOSING

This will close out our dual issue of *The Whale's Tale* and *From the Bullpen*. Good luck in the final five weeks of the season.

Skipper