

# *From the Bullpen*

*Official Publication of The Nebraska Hot Stove League*



2014 Season

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Brethren:

On this record-setting (minus 6) frigid March day, I thought that a short *From the Bullpen* would be just what everyone needs to warm the cockles of our hearts.

**DRAFT DAY: SUNDAY, MARCH 23, 2014, 1:00 P.M.**

Apparently there is a fair amount of confusion about when we will hold our 30th Annual Hot Stove League Draft. To clear this up, we will in fact be holding Draft Day on Sunday, March 23, 2014, at 1:00 p.m. in the Washington Room at Pansing Hogan Ernst & Bachman. Be there, and be prepared.

**MIKE TROUT: THE NEXT FRANK McCORMICK?**

This Friday past, I was delighted to open my mailbox and find the current issue of *Baseball Digest*, my favorite reading material during baseball season and just about any other time during the year. The first featured article was about Mike Trout, and the fact that he finished second in the AL Most Valuable Player voting in both his rookie and

sophomore seasons, the first player ever to have accomplished this feat. In fact, Trout became only the *sixth* Major League player to finish in the top five in MVP voting in his first two seasons of Major League play. See the table below for the other five members who have finished in the top five in the MVP vote in their first two seasons of play:

Player	League	Rookie Year	Second Year
Rabbit Maranville	N.L.	1913 (3rd)	1914 (4th)
<b>Frank McCormick</b>	N.L.	1938 (5th)	1939 (4th)
Johnny Pesky	A.L.	1942 (3rd)	1946 (4th)
Tony Oliva	A.L.	1964 (4th)	1965 (2nd)
Albert Pujols	N.L.	2001 (4th)	2002 (2nd)
<b>Mike Trout</b>	A.L.	2012 (2nd)	2013 (3rd)

The name Frank McCormick jumped off the page at me, because I don't recall that I have ever before heard of Mr. McCormick, a first baseman for the Cincinnati Reds who finished fifth in the MVP voting in his rookie year in 1938, and then followed this up with a fourth place finish in 1939. As it turns out, the unpublicized Mr. McCormick went on to win the MVP award in his third season, 1940, while leading the National League in hits (for the third straight season) with 191, and in doubles with 44.

So why isn't Frank McCormick a household name among baseball aficionados? Because his career took a decided turn for the mediocre after his white-hot first three years in the Bigs. Below you will find "Buck" McCormick's career statistics:

Standard Batting		More Stats		Glossary · Hide Partial · Show Minors Stats · SHARE · Embed · CSV · PRE · LINK · ?																									
Minors	Game Logs	Splits	HR Log	vs. Pitcher	Finders																								
Year	Age	Tm	Lg	G	PA	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	CS	BB	SO	BA	OBP	SLG	OPS	OPS+	TB	GDP	HBP	SH	SF	IBB	Pos	Awards
1934	23	CIN	NL	12	16	16	1	5	2	1	0	5	0	0	1	.313	.313	.563	.875	133	9	1	0	0				/3	
1937	26	CIN	NL	24	87	83	5	27	5	0	0	9	1	2	4	.325	.341	.386	.727	101	32	5	0	2				3/409	
1938	27	CIN	NL	151	671	<b>640</b>	89	<b>209</b>	40	4	5	106	1	18	17	.327	.348	.425	.773	113	272	15	3	10				*3	<a href="#">AS,MVP-5</a>
1939	28	CIN	NL	156	688	630	99	<b>209</b>	41	4	18	<b>128</b>	1	40	16	.332	.374	.495	.869	130	312	23	2	16				*3	<a href="#">AS,MVP-4</a>
1940	29	CIN	NL	155	676	<b>618</b>	93	<b>191</b>	<b>44</b>	3	19	127	2	52	26	.309	.367	.482	.850	132	298	<b>23</b>	5	1				*3	<a href="#">AS,MVP-1</a>
1941	30	CIN	NL	154	653	603	77	162	31	5	17	97	2	40	13	.269	.318	.421	.740	107	254	<b>22</b>	4	6				*3	<a href="#">AS</a>
1942	31	CIN	NL	145	616	564	58	156	24	0	13	89	1	45	18	.277	.332	.388	.721	111	219	<b>14</b>	2	5				*3	<a href="#">AS,MVP-27</a>
1943	32	CIN	NL	126	506	472	56	143	28	0	8	59	2	29	15	.303	.345	.413	.758	119	195	8	1	4				*3	<a href="#">AS,MVP-9</a>
1944	33	CIN	NL	153	645	581	85	177	37	3	20	102	7	57	17	.305	.371	.482	.853	143	280	19	4	3				*3	<a href="#">AS,MVP-13</a>
1945	34	CIN	NL	152	644	580	68	160	33	0	10	81	6	56	22	.276	.345	.384	.729	104	223	20	5	3				*3	<a href="#">MVP-24</a>
1946	35	PHI	NL	135	542	504	46	143	20	2	11	66	2	36	21	.284	.333	.397	.730	110	200	11	1	2				*3	<a href="#">AS,MVP-34</a>
1947	36	TOT	NL	96	268	252	31	84	20	2	3	51	2	14	10	.333	.368	.464	.833	122	117	10	0	2				3	
1947	36	PHI	NL	15	43	40	7	9	2	0	1	8	0	3	2	.225	.279	.350	.629	70	14	2	0	0				3	
1947	36	BSN	NL	81	225	212	24	75	18	2	2	43	2	11	8	.354	.386	.486	.871	132	103	8	0	2				3	
1948	37	BSN	NL	75	194	180	14	45	9	2	4	34	0	10	9	.250	.289	.389	.678	83	70	5	0	4				3	
<b>13 Yrs</b>				<b>1534</b>	<b>6206</b>	<b>5723</b>	<b>722</b>	<b>1711</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>954</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>.299</b>	<b>.348</b>	<b>.434</b>	<b>.781</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>2481</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>58</b>					

One of the things that I love about our great game of baseball is that there is so much rich history, dating back for so many years, that you are often surprised when you learn about the career of some player from many years ago—like Frank McCormick—and realize that no matter how much you know about the game and its history, there is so

much more information to know. Just when you think that you have heard it all, there is a former MVP out there that you learn about, and then you know one thing more about the lore of this great game.

Okay, I promised you that this would be a short issue, and so I will end it now. Get working on your Draft cheat sheets, and I will see all of you in the Washington Room on Sunday, March 23.

Skipper