

# From the Bullpen

Official Publication of The Nebraska Hot Stove League



**The  
Nebraska  
Hot Stove  
League**

1985 - 2014

Celebrating  
**30**  
Years

Of  
Competition,  
Brotherhood,  
And  
Bragging  
Rights



HARRY "HAL" KRAUSE

2014 Season

Edition No. 4

April 17, 2014

Brethren:

As we wait for this False Spring to bloom into the real thing, I offer a short *From the Bullpen* for your reading pleasure.

### STANDINGS THROUGH 2-3/7 WEEKS

Through games of Wednesday, April 16, the standings in the Hot Stove League look like this:

1. Wahoos	1292.00
2. Monarchs	1223.40
3. Skipjacks	1170.90
4. Chiefs	1138.90
5. Tribe	1090.30
6. Cubs	1086.10

7. Bombers	1081.20
8. Bums	1072.70
9. Senators	1033.00
10. Tigers	1008.00
11. Blues	893.60
12. Redbirds	860.10
13. Bears	817.70

While the owner at the top of the leaderboard—whose name need not be mentioned here—has been bellyaching more than Babe Ruth after consuming a dozen hot dogs, there has been very little mention made that his **Wahoos** are in 1st place primarily on the backs of Charlie Blackmon and Anthony Rendón, both of whom are in the top thirteen in points scored to date, and both of whom can only be described as acorns that have been scooped up by a blind squirrel. I didn't realize that squirrels were a member of the possum family, but I guess you learn something new every day on this earth.

And now for the Top Fifteen Hitters and Pitchers in the league through 16 days of play:

### TOP HITTERS

1.	Alexei Ramirez	Cubs	89.4
2.	Giancarlo Stanton	Skipjacks	82.7
3.	Chase Utley	Bombers	81.1
4.	Freddie Freeman	Wahoos	80.4
5.	Mike Trout	Chiefs	80.1
6.	Paul Goldschmidt	Tribe	78.6
7.	José Batista	Monarchs	77.0
8.	Carlos Gómez	Bombers	74.7
9.	Joey Votto	Wahoos	74.5
10.	Adrián González	Blues	70.0
11.	Carlos González	Senators	69.5
	Anthony Rendón	Wahoos	69.5
13.	Charlie Blackmon	Wahoos	69.0
14.	Michael Cuddyer	Tigers	66.4
15.	Justin Upton	Bums	65.7

### TOP PITCHERS

1.	Félix Hernández	Tigers	136.0
2.	Johnny Cueto	Monarchs	117.0
3.	Andrew Cashner	Tribe	112.0
4.	Masahiro Tenaska	Senators	99.0
5.	Yu Darvish	Tigers	93.0
6.	José Fernández	Skipjacks	92.0

7.	Mark Buehrle	Senators	90.0
8.	Julio Teherán	Wahoos	89.0
	Scott Kazmir	Wahoos	89.0
10.	Tim Hudson	Senators	85.0
	Scott Feldman	Senators	85.0
12.	Chris Sale	Tribe	83.0
	Aaron Harang	Skipjacks	83.0
14.	Michael Wacha	Redbirds	82.0
15.	Sonny Gray	Tribe	80.0
	David Price	Bombers	80.0

### MAN WITH HAIR ON FIRE

















Will Ernst has recently been called upon frequently in relief of the wafer-thin Mount Michael pitching staff, and when he takes the bump, he pitches like a man with his hair on fire. And this season, Will actually has a head full of hair that could catch fire, different from his previous buzzed-globe looks. Most recently, Will came in to relieve in the bottom of the 7th against Fremont Bergan on a blustery Tuesday night, with the Knights holding a 2-0 lead with 2 Bergan baserunners to contend with and one out. Will promptly fanned the next hitter for the second out, but then gave up a single on about a 15-pitch at-bat to make the score 2-1, with runners at the corners. He then walked the next batter on a 3-2 count, on a pitch that seemed to be perfectly placed on the outside corner at the knees. With the bases juiced, Will ran the count to 1-2, and then threw a perfect pitch on the outside corner to end the game, to the lusty cheers of the Mount Michael throng. Except that the umpire called it a ball.

Kill the bum! String him up! Life in prison is too good for this scallywag!

With all of the pressure of the world seemingly mounted on his not-inconsiderable shoulders, but with ice water in his veins, Will then reared back and tossed an absolutely unhittable pea right past the Bergan hitter, notching the third strike and the final out of the game to rack up the save for his brother Knights. After the rescue squad jump-started his father's heart, dad and son had an excellent conversation on the drive home, including a brief detour to the Valley Dairy Queen.

I'm not sure what I'll do once Will's baseball career is over. I guess it's a damned good thing I'm getting married.



Have a great week.

Skipper

P.S. I am looking forward with great anticipation to seeing what Underbelly has in store for us next week in *The Bellyflop!*