

From the Bullpen

"The People's Newspaper"

For People Who Want to Know the Real Truth



The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have little. --[Franklin D. Roosevelt](#)

Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek. --[Barack Obama](#)

It is amazing what you can accomplish if you don't care who gets the credit. --[Harry S. Truman](#)

It's all about pitching. --[David D. Ernst](#)

Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country. --[John F. Kennedy](#)

Most importantly I never sent classified material on my email and I never received any that was marked classified. --[Hillary Clinton](#)

Let me say something that may not be great politics. And that is that the American people are sick and tired of hearing about your damn emails. --[Bernie Sanders](#)

2017 Campaign

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REPEAT!

Brethren:

Our brother PAwesome has accomplished something that hasn't happened in this august league since the year 1990, a virtual generation ago: A repeat Hot Stove League title! Congratulations to him for another great season of competition, and for becoming the first Hot Stove Leaguer to rack up six titles. [F1]

Repeating is not easy. Just ask Shamu about second and fifth grades. [F2] The only other Hot Stove Leaguer (besides PAwesome who went back-to-back in the first two years of our historic league competition), the only other HSL manager to repeat was Big Guy, then known as WhiteSot, who went back-to-back-to-back from 1987 to 1989. The last Major League baseball team to success fully defend a crown was the New York Yankees in 2000, some 17 years ago. The last NFL team to successfully defend a champion-

ship was the New England Patriots in 2004-2005, some 12 years ago. Although they won three World Series crowns in five years, the San Francisco Giants couldn't do it. And although he won three Hot Stove League crowns in 5 years, BT couldn't do it.

The take-home point is that in any sporting league that is highly competitive, it is extremely difficult to win the league two years in a row, much less *ever*, to which a certain select club of beloved Hot Stove League members can attest. So a tip of the cap from *From the Bullpen* to the wily if inscrutable and at times insufferable owner and manager of the Hot Stove League club known as the **Wahoos**. Now, what night are we meeting at Fleming's, and when do you need our respective sizes for the swag?

FINAL STANDINGS, 2017 SEASON

1	Wahoos	12886.5	-	0
2	Redbirds	12554.0	332.5	0
3	Bears	12364.6	521.9	+1
4	Cubs	12281.9	604.6	-1
5	Chiefs	12201.8	684.7	0
6	Tigers	11986.1	900.4	+1
7	Monarchs	11947.4	939.1	-1
8	Tribe	11636.9	1249.6	0
9	Bombers	11589.2	1297.3	+1
10	Hot Mess	11553.6	1332.9	-1
11	Bums	11383.0	1503.5	0
12	Blues	11209.7	1676.8	0
13	Senators	10017.1	2869.4	0

2017 CHAMPION: WAHOOS
RUNNER-UP: REDBIRDS
THIRD PLACE: BEAR TURDS

As for the rest of us, fellas, I guess it doesn't really matter. If you're not 1st, 2nd or 3rd, who really cares where your team finished, right?

POINT TOTALS FOR WEEK 26

1	Bears	541.0
2	Tigers	489.0
3	Chiefs	484.1

4	Bombers	476.1
5	Monarchs	446.6
6	Cubs	432.8
7	Wahoos	431.8
8	Hot Mess	398.6
9	Tribe	398.3
10	Redbirds	384.7
11	Blues	354.6
12	Bums	352.3
13	Senators	339.3

SloPay's **Bears** continued their torrid second-half pace, leading the circuit with 541.0 points. Symbolically, as well as grounded in reality, the **Senators** had the fewest points for Week 26 with 339.3, just one more dash of salt into the gaping Senatorial laceration.

FINAL PLAYER STANDINGS

HITTERS

1	Aaron Judge	Hot Mess	792.0
2	Charlie Blackmon	Wahoos	789.9
3	Joey Votto	Tigers	775.0
4	Giancarlo Stanton	Bears	773.9
5	Paul Goldschmidt	Monarchs	727.3
6	Nolan Arenado	Tigers	725.1
7	José Altuve	Redbirds	708.1
8	Anthony Rizzo	Tribe	668.2
9	José Ramírez	Tribe	666.6
10	Marcell Ozuna	Tribe	661.5
11	Brian Dozier	Senators	657.5
12	Kris Bryant	Wahoos	655.8
13	Nelson Cruz	Blues	636.0
14	Francisco Lindor	Cubs	631.1
15	José Abreu	Bombers	626.8
16	Edwin Encarnación	Hot Mess	621.5
17	Justin Upton	Bombers	612.9
18	Eric Hosmer	Blues	611.0

19	Anthony Rendon	Chiefs	610.4
20	Jonathan Schoop	Bums	605.0
21	Mike Trout	Cubs	600.0
22	Daniel Murphy	Redbirds	599.3
23	Elvis Andrus	Hot Mess	593.8
24	Khris Davis	Tigers	592.2
25	J.D. Martinez	Chiefs	591.3

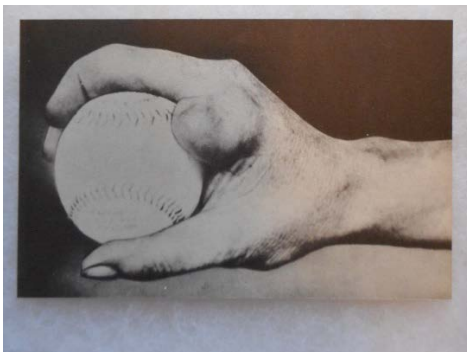
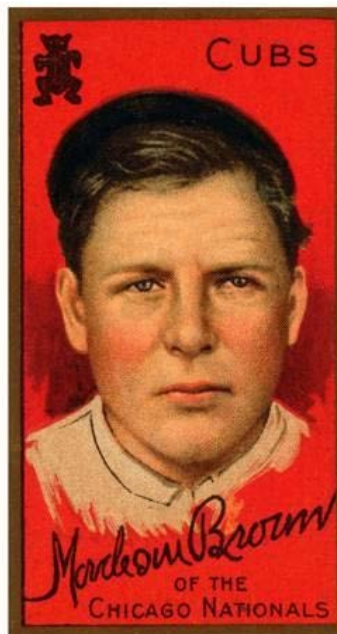
PITCHERS

1	Corey Kluber	Chiefs	852.0
2	Chris Sale	Redbirds	850.0
3	Max Scherzer	Wahoos	815.0
4	Clayton Kershaw	Blues	713.0
5	Carlos Carrasco	Tribe	704.0
6	Luis Severino	Bears	699.0
7	Zack Greinke	Tigers	686.0
8	Justin Verlander	Tigers	677.0
9	Gio González	Senators	647.0
10	Ervin Santana	Tigers	631.0
11	Robbie Ray	Bombers	614.0
12	Carlos Martínez	Wahoos	598.0
13	Chris Archer	Bombers	587.0
14	Marcus Stroman	Redbirds	561.0
15	Aaron Nola	Monarchs	519.0
16	Jake Arrieta	Blues	499.0
17	Jon Lester	Bums	495.0
18	James Paxton	Tribe	492.0
18	Dallas Keuchel	Senators	492.0
20	Masahiro Tanaka	Hot Mess	489.0
21	Patrick Corbin	Tribe	488.0
22	Jhoulys Chacin	Cubs	487.0
23	Chase Anderson	Senators	484.0
24	Jason Vargas	Blues	475.0
24	Brad Peacock	Bears	475.0

Comments: It had been my plan here to include some brilliant and insightful comments regarding player performance in relation to draft order, but our Analytics Department let me down again, and so we will have to save this for a later issue. Be prepared to be dazzled.

ABOUT MORDECAI

Here is a little known tidbit from a baseball book that I am reading right now about John McGraw's Giants which I believe you will find delectable. Of course, you all know the story about Mordecai "Three Finger" Brown, who lost portions of at least two digits in a corn picker as a young lad, but went on to become one of the greatest pitchers of all time, culminating in his induction at Cooperstown in 1949.



But did you know that Mordecai played for the Omaha Indians in 1902 before achieving fame in the Major Leagues with the Cubs? According to the internet [F3], the owner of the **Omaha Indians**, "Pa" Rourke, bought Three

Finger from the Terre Haute Hottentots for \$300, and paid Brown \$150 a month. Mordecai tied Kid Nichols for the Western League lead in wins that season with 27, and was then sold by Rourke to the Cardinals in 1903 before winding up in the Windy City. More next week on the Omaha Indians.

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That's it for now. Have a great weekend, all.

Skipper

[FN1] We know, we know, Ted. It should be ten titles. At least.

[FN2] Brutal. But it may explain why Shamu peaked athletically as a sophomore in high school at Millard. He was 21 years old.

[FN3] The source of all things good and true.