

FROM THE BULLPEN

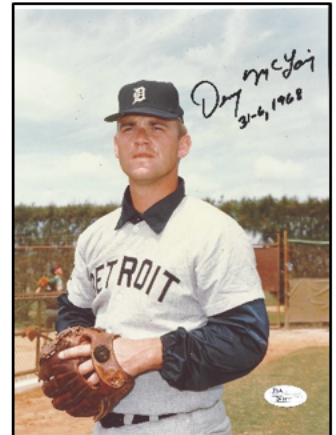
The Nebraska Hot Stove League



of the Summer of '68, "The Year of the Pitcher"



Bob Gibson



Denny McLain

2018 Campaign

Edition No. 16

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Brethren:

As you will notice when you look at our website, Linda has updated our Order of Final Finishes to include the 2018 campaign. Here is the order of finish for 2018, followed by an indication of how many positions each team improved or worsened from 2017:

Screech	1	+6
BT	2	+3
Tirebiter	3	-1
PAwesome	4	-3
SloPay	5	-2
Tricko	6	+5
McBlunder	7	+5
Itchie	8	+2
Skipper	9	+4
Shamu	10	-6
Big Guy	11	-5
Underbelly	12	-4
Mouse	13	-4

In summary, Screech went from a 7th place team to take the crown, an improvement of 6 slots, to lead the way in the *Most Improved* category, followed closely by Tricko and

McBlunder, who both improved by 5 positions. Shamu, having dropped from 4th place to 10th place, had the biggest freefall, 6 slots, one worse than Big Guy's drop of 5.

Here are a few other observations worth sharing:

- Screech's crown was his second finish in 1st place, and the third time that he has finished in the money in 12 seasons of solo competition. He has finished in the Upper Division (1st through 6th) in 7 out of his 12 years in the league.
- B.T. finished in 2nd place for the seventh time in 34 years of competition. He has finished in the money in 14 of those 34 seasons, and he also has *14 consecutive seasons in the top 5*. Impressive.
- Tirebiter finished in 3rd place for the first time *ever* in 26 years of competition. He has now finished in the money 8 times total, with his seven 2nd place finishes tying him with B.T. for the most times ending up in the bridesmaid position. In 26 years of play, Tirebiter has finished in the top 6 fifteen times.
- PAwesome's 4th place finish was his seventh time in the No. 4 slot. He has finished in the money in exactly 50% of the seasons, 17 out of 34. Even more impressive than that, PAwesome has finished in the Upper Division 29 years out of 34.
- SloPay's 5th place finish was his third time in that slot. He has finished in the money 4 times and in the Upper Division 11 times.
- Tricko's 6th place finish was his sixth time in that position. He has finished in the money 15 times out of 31 chances, just barely under 50%. Tricko's teams have finished in the Upper Division 23 times in 31 years.
- McBlunder finished in 7th place for the fifth time. That's it.
- Itchie's boys finished in 8th for the 5th season. While the Skipjacks have finished in the money 7 times in 31 seasons, it has been a while.
- Skipper's 9th place finish was the third time that the Senators have finished in 9th. However, it is the first time in a dozen years or more that the Senators have not finished in the league bowels or in the penultimate position in the league, so there's that.
- Shamu's 10th place finish was his fourth time finishing in 10th, but the lowest that a Shamu-guided team has finished since 2005. His boys have finished in the top division 20 times in 34 years of competition. Always competitive.
- Big Guy's team finished in 11th for the third time in the annals of the Hot Stove League. Big Guy's team has finished in the money 8 times in 34 years, and in the

Upper Division 16 times, but his boys are still looking for their first championship since the Dead Ball Era.

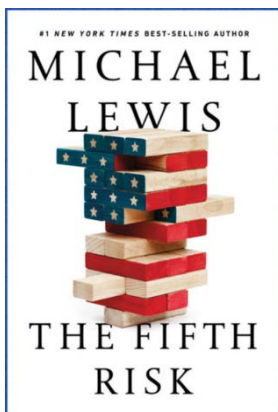
- Underbelly's team finished in 12th place for the third time in 33 years of competition.
- And finally, Mouse's team finished in 13th place for the first time ever, thanks to a spate of injuries and just plain bad luck.

And so there you go, boys. Once again, congrats to Screech for a fantastic season.

WINTER MEETING

And speaking of Screech, we will celebrate his team's great victory at our Winter Meeting tentatively set for Friday, January 18. More details to follow, but for now, please block this evening off on your calendar.

BOOK REPORT: *The Fifth Risk* By Michael Lewis

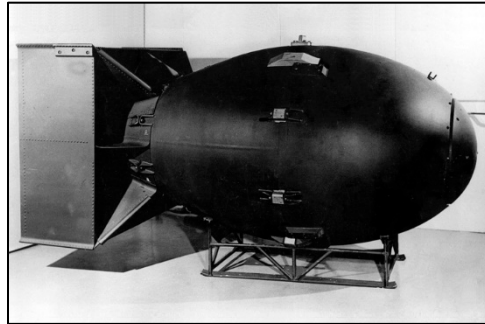


If anyone is looking for a great read, I highly recommend *The Fifth Risk* by Michael Lewis, author of *Moneyball*. In this light and easy read, Lewis explores some of the unheralded if not essentially unknown departments in our federal government, and how the current administration's strategic decision to ignore these mechanisms of government may be putting all of us at great risk.

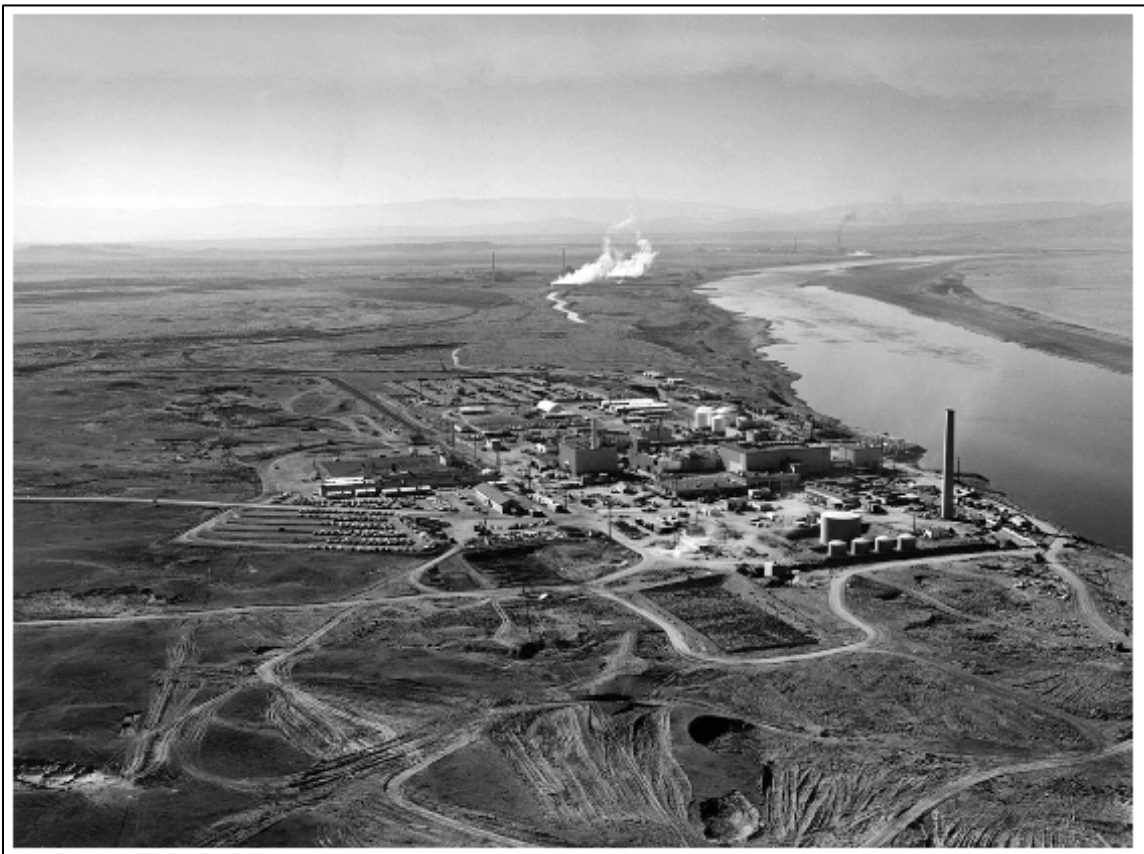
The most fascinating part of the book to me was learning that our Department of Energy has approximately a \$30 billion dollar annual budget, and that roughly 10% of this each year goes to a small area in Central Washington where plutonium was generated in huge quantities beginning back in the 1940s towards the end of beating Nazi Germany to the development of the atom bomb.

I can hardly believe that I had never before heard of this, but I learned from the book that there is a place known as the "Hanford Site" which is now a decommissioned nuclear production complex located on the Columbia River. It was established in 1943 as part of the Manhattan Project. As the book tells it, the U.S. Government essentially "kicked out" all of the people who lived in the town of Hanford, apparently using the powers of eminent domain, and made it the home of something known as the B Reactor, which was the first full-scale plutonium production reactor in the world. The plutonium which was manufactured at this

site was used in the first nuclear bomb, and in "Fat Man," the bomb which was detonated over Nagasaki, Japan.



Fat Man



The Hanford Site

The Hanford Site was eventually expanded to include nine nuclear reactors and five large plutonium processing complexes, which produced plutonium for most of the 60,000+ weapons built for the U.S. nuclear arsenal.

The weapons production reactors were decommissioned at the end of the Cold War, leaving behind 53 million gallons of high-level radioactive waste stored inside of 177 storage tanks, together with 200 square miles of contaminated groundwater beneath the site. The DOE is charged with overseeing the site, and keeping us all safe from all of this radioactive waste.



We should all be comforted to know that the current head of the Department of Energy is Rick Perry. If memory serves, Secretary Perry at one time wanted to abolish the Department of Energy. And he may still do so, so if you're planning a trip to Central Washington in the near future, keep that in mind.

SEASON'S GREETINGS

Enough for this issue. Here's wishing my brothers a terrific Thanksgiving holiday.

Skipper

