

# FROM THE BULLPEN



Bob Gibson

## The Nebraska Hot Stove League



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



Denny McLain

2018 Campaign

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### BLUES LEAD FIELD DURING SHORT WEEK, CHIEFS CREEPING UP ON LEADERBOARD, WAHOOS AND TIGERS FLAGGING

Gentlemen:

For the week of July 22, 2018, a short week after the All-Star break, the leading point-getter for the abbreviated week was the **Blues** with 293.9 points, allowing them to keep their foothold on 10th place. Well done, Stretch.

A close second in points for the week were the **Chiefs** with 275.1 points, allowing B.T.'s warriors to leapfrog the **Monarchs** into 4th place, with one good eye on the **Wahoos**.

At the other end of the spectrum, the **Tigers** had the least productive short week with 139 points and find themselves mired in 11th place, while the **Wahoos** had the second-lowest point total for Week 17 with 148.9 points, and find themselves 272.2 points out of 1st place through the end of the week.

### LEADERBOARDS

Here are the leaderboards for pitching and hitting through Week 17, as well as the customary "Who's Hot" and "Who's Not" lists. Note that Zach Greinke of the **Cubs**--he of the most

ill-fitting lid in the league--was the top pitcher with 45 points during the short week, with Chris Sale, Vince Velasquez and Wade LeBlanc all chiming in with 38 points for their respective teams.

On the hitting side of the equation, Matt Carpenter of the **Wahoos** had a whopper of a week with 63.3 points for the **Wahoos**, making it even more curious that the **Wahoos** had such a dismal Week 17 as a team. Trending down, it would appear. Corey Dickerson of the **Redbirds** had the second-highest point total for the week with 42.0 points, while Anthony Rizzo of the **Tribe** rings in at third with 36.2.

**POINTS FOR WEEK 17  
ENDING JULY 22, 2018**

1	Redbirds	7841.5	-
2	Bums	7746.9	94.6
3	Wahoos	7569.3	272.2
4	Chiefs	7553.8	287.7
5	Monarchs	7469.4	372.1
6	Cubs	7459.8	381.7
7	Bears	7398.6	442.9
8	Senators	7150.2	691.3
9	Skipjacks	7149.6	691.9
10	Blues	7141.0	700.5
11	Tigers	6938.3	903.2
12	Bombers	6785.5	1056.0
13	Tribe	6442.6	1398.9

**(SHORT WEEK AFTER ALL STAR BREAK)  
POINTS FOR WEEK 17  
ENDING JULY 22, 2018**

1	Blues	293.9
2	Chiefs	275.1
3	Bums	257.0
4	Tribe	243.0
5	Skipjacks	233.2
6	Senators	232.6
7	Redbirds	197.7
8	Bombers	192.5
9	Cubs	184.8
10	Bears	175.2
11	Monarchs	157.2
12	Wahoos	148.9
13	Tigers	139.7

### TOP 25 PITCHERS

1.	Justin Verlander	Blues	593.0
2.	Max Scherzer	Tigers	592.0
3.	Chris Sale	Bums	590.0
4.	Gerrit Cole	Wahoos	523.0
5.	Luis Severino	Bombers	519.0
6.	Aaron Nola	Monarchs	506.0
7.	Corey Kluber	Redbirds	505.0
8.	Trevor Bauer	Redbirds	504.0
9.	Jacob deGrom	Skipjacks	477.0
10.	Blake Snell	Bears	464.0
11.	Zack Greinke	Cubs	447.0
12.	Charlie Morton	Redbirds	438.0
13.	James Paxton	Bombers	417.0
14.	Patrick Corbin	Tigers	409.0
15.	José Berríos	Tribe	402.0
16.	Miles Mikolas	Skipjacks	401.0
17.	Sean Manaea	Senators	389.0
18.	Marco Gonzales	Tribe	375.0
T19.	Ross Stripling	Bears	370.0
T19.	Mike Clevinger	Senators	370.0
21.	Lance McCullers Jr.	Bears	369.0
22.	Rick Porcello	Chiefs	366.0
23.	Carlos Carrasco	Senators	362.0
24.	Jon Lester	Wahoos	347.0
25.	Kyle Freeland	Bears	345.0

### WHO'S HOT -- PITCHERS

1.	Zack Greinke	Cubs	45.0
T2.	Chris Sale	Bums	38.0
T2.	Vince Velasquez	Tribe	38.0
T3.	Wade LeBlanc	Skipjacks	38.0
5.	Dallas Keuchel	Redbirds	36.0
6.	Justin Verlander	Blues	35.0
T7.	David Price	Chiefs	32.0
T7.	Marcus Stroman	Chiefs	32.0
T7.	Dereck Rodríguez	Skipjacks	32.0
10.	Brad Keller	Blues	31.0
T10.	Carlos Carrasco	Senators	31.0
T12.	Rich Hill	Senators	29.0
T12.	Marco Gonzales	Tribe	29.0

T14.	Danny Duffy	Cubs	28.0
T14.	Dan Straily	Blues	28.0
T14.	Mike Fiers	Bombers	28.0
T17.	Jake Odorizzi	Monarchs	27.0
T17.	Andrew Heaney	Chiefs	27.0
19.	José Quintana	Monarchs	26.0
T20.	Max Scherzer	Tigers	25.0
T20.	Nathan Eovaldi	Bums	25.0
T20.	Nick Kingham	Chiefs	25.0
T23.	Sean Manaea	Senators	24.0
T23.	Ivan Nova	Cubs	24.0
T23.	Aníbal Sánchez	Blues	24.0

#### WHO'S NOT -- PITCHERS

1.	Jon Lester	Wahoos	-20.0
2.	Matt Harvey	Cubs	-13.0
3.	Clayton Richard	Bombers	-12.0
4.	Lance McCullers Jr.	Bears	-7.0
T5.	Luke Weaver	Bears	-6.0
T5.	Will Smith	Chiefs	-6.0
T7.	Tyler Mahle	Cubs	-5.0
T7.	Reynaldo López	Wahoos	-5.0
T9.	Carlos Martínez	Monarchs	-4.0
T9.	Jake Arrieta	Skipjacks	-4.0
T9.	Stephen Strasburg	Wahoos	-4.0
T9.	Steven Matz	Chiefs	-4.0
13.	Blaine Hardy	Tigers	-3.0
14.	Trevor Bauer	Redbirds	-1.0

#### TOP 25 HITTERS

1.	José Ramírez	Redbirds	513.4
2.	Mike Trout	Wahoos	495.3
3.	Francisco Lindor	Blues	474.7
4.	Mookie Betts	Monarchs	468.3
5.	J.D. Martinez	Skipjacks	466.7
6.	Nolan Arenado	Bears	451.8
7.	Manny Machado	Blues	436.4
8.	Aaron Judge	Bombers	435.7
9.	Alex Bregman	Bums	434.9
10.	Trevor Story	Bears	416.2
11.	Freddie Freeman	Bears	413.4
12.	Andrew Benintendi	Redbirds	412.1

13.	Matt Carpenter	Wahoos	407.8
14.	Ozzie Albies	Chiefs	395.6
15.	Javier Báez	Monarchs	395.4
16.	Paul Goldschmidt	Cubs	395.3
17.	Jose Altuve	Redbirds	389.1
18.	Scooter Gennett	Senators	376.2
19.	Eddie Rosario	Senators	374.8
20.	Shin-soo Choo	Tigers	372.7
21.	Eugenio Suárez	Bums	372.0
22.	Charlie Blackmon	Tigers	370.8
23.	Giancarlo Stanton	Bums	366.5
24.	Nick Markakis	Senators	365.5
25.	Joey Votto	Wahoos	365.2

### WHO'S HOT -- HITTERS

1.	Matt Carpenter	Wahoos	63.3
2.	Corey Dickerson	Redbirds	42.0
3.	Anthony Rizzo	Tribe	36.2
4.	Tommy Pham	Bears	35.0
5.	Christian Yelich	Blues	27.5
6.	Rougned Odor	Tribe	26.7
7.	Matt Kemp	Tigers	25.6
8.	George Springer	Cubs	25.0
9.	Ronald Acuña Jr.	Tribe	24.0
10.	Yadier Molina	Redbirds	22.7
T11.	Rhys Hoskins	Chiefs	22.5
T11.	Derek Dietrich	Tigers	22.5
13.	Ketel Marte	Bombers	22.3
14.	A.J. Pollock	Tribe	22.0
15.	José Ramírez	Redbirds	21.6
16.	Ian Happ	Bums	21.5
17.	Ryon Healy	Bums	21.1
18.	Starling Marte	Bears	21.0
19.	Juan Soto	Tribe	20.5
20.	Ian Kinsler	Tigers	20.4
21.	Nolan Arenado	Bears	20.3
22.	Matt Olson	Tribe	20.0
23.	Kris Bryant	Senators	19.5
24.	Willson Contreras	Cubs	19.1
25.	Jason Heyward	Bears	19.0

### WHO'S NOT -- HITTERS

1.	Mark Canha	Bears	-3.0
2.	Yuli Gurriel	Monarchs	-2.8
3.	Austin Hedges	Chiefs	-2.4
4.	Yoán Moncada	Blues	-2.0
T5.	Michael A. Taylor	Blues	-1.5
T5.	Mitch Moreland	Wahoos	-1.5
T7.	Joey Votto	Wahoos	-1.2
T7.	Christian Villanueva	Tribe	-1.2
T9.	DJ LeMahieu	Senators	-1.0
T9.	Gary Sánchez	Bears	-1.0
T9.	Kyle Tucker	Bears	-1.0
T12.	Niko Goodrum	Cubs	-0.9
T12.	Rafael Devers	Redbirds	-0.9
T14.	Ryan Zimmerman	Chiefs	-0.5
T14.	J.D. Martinez	Skipjacks	-0.5
16.	Brandon Crawford	Tigers	-0.1

### THE TRIP

Our 34th annual HSL junket is just around the corner. This season, as you know, we will converge on Kansas City to watch the dethroned Royals take on the Cleveland Indians. So at least we will get to see one Major League team play.

Stretch is currently backpacking across Big Sky country in Montana, but promises to put out some details about the Trip upon his return next week. As of right now, it appears that we have solid commitments from Stretch, Shamu, B.T., Itchie, Screech, Mouse and the Skipper. Magpie is on the DL with a hip surgery planned, and the rest of you are apparently still question marks at this point. Hopefully, we can have at least 8-10 of us in attendance. I'm buying the first round.

### FINS TO THE LEFT

As previous mentioned in an earlier issue, on June 30, Michele and I ventured north with the Ernst kids to attend the Jimmy Buffett/Eagles concert at Target Field. It was a crazy fun night, and for any of you who have not ever been to a Jimmy Buffett concert, do yourself a favor and get your tired butt to one while he's still alive and kicking. I promise you it will be one of the funnest, if not *the* funnest concerts you will ever go to, bar none.



While we were mainly there for the Buffett part of the show, the Eagles also were quite entertaining, with Vince Gill as the lead singer and Glenn Frey's son taking his spot in the band. Joe Walsh can still rock it with the best of them, in spite of the fact that he looks like he is 106 years old. Their encore song was *Hotel California*, which was their opening song when I first saw them at Summer Rock II at Arrowhead Stadium in 1978. [FN 1]

## IN THE BALLPARKS

If you want to gander at a bully of a baseball park website, take a look at *In the Ballparks*, which Linda recently discovered. In terms of ballparks attended, this dude makes me look like a rookie. Pretty darned cool. I love his notation under "Comments" that "You do not have permission to add comments." Fair enough.

I also love the quote from Art Hill:

*With those who don't give a damn about baseball, I can only sympathize. I do not resent them. I am even willing to concede that many of them are physically clean, good to their mothers and in favor of world peace. But while the game is on, I can't think of anything to say to them.*

Spoken like a true fan. Well said, Art.

And believe it or not, that's it for this issue, fellas.

Keep the faith, my brothers.

Skipper

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FN 1 From his note on the Message Board, Brother Stretch was also at that concert, which I could not have known since I hadn't even met him yet. Stretch correctly pointed out on the Message Board that Dan Fogelberg was one of the featured acts at that festival, and that Jackson Browne was a guest who sat in but was not a featured act. Good catch, McBlunder.