



# *The Monarch Missive*

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## Top Twenty-Five Tidbits

From the current list of Top 25 scorers amongst pitchers

<b>Name</b>	<b>Pitching Rank</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>Draft Round</b>
Matt Shoemaker	5	107	Wahoos	30
Mike Minor	12	94	Bums	FA
Brad Keller	13	94	Blues	21
Matthew Boyd	17	90	Wahoos	27
Brett Anderson	18	83	Tigers	FA
Max Fried	19	84	Skipjacks	29

- Good use of late round picks for Teddy-Ballgame in Shoemaker and Boyd in rounds 30 and 27, respectively
- Mike Minor and Brett Anderson are salty FA pick-ups for their respective owners
- On the strength of those late round picks the Wahoos lead the pack with five pitchers in the Top 25, followed by the Bums with four

- The Cubs' lone representative in the list of Top 25 of pitchers is a reliever, Kirby Yates at #15. Maybe waiting until the 8th round to select his first SP wasn't the best strategy for Brother Shamu
- The Chiefs and Bears are without representation in the Top 25 list of pitchers

From the current list of Top 25 scorers amongst hitters

<b>Name</b>	<b>Hitting Rank</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>Draft Round</b>
Marcus Semien	16	86	Redbirds	20
Elvis Andrus	18	84	Tigers	24
Kolten Wong	23	80	Tigers	FA
Alex Gordon	24	80	Monarchs	FA

- Big Guy, coming strong, maybe winning is all about slap-hitting middle infielders punching above their weight?
- Nah, the Tribe leads the pack with 5 of the top 25 batters and not so coincidentally leads the HSL at the 10% point – Pete Alonso, Paul DeJong, Yoan Moncada, Rhys Hoskins, and Marcell Ozuna. Could it be the year of the Tribe?
- While packing the Pitching Leaderboard the Bums lack representation in the Top 25 batters. More on this in a bit
- Alex Gordon is alive and well in KC!

### Random Reflections

- Blake Snell, you just signed a five-year \$50 million extension, hire someone to move the decorative granite stand outside the shower. Tigers owner Rick Drews will be first in line for that gig if it keeps you out of harm's way

- I for one thought Cody Bellinger would be available when the 3rd round of the draft kicked off, nice grab in the 2nd, Mouse. His current MLB ranking in a few key stats:

Average: .433 (1st)  
Slugging: .925 (1st)  
OPS: 1.438 (1st)  
Runs: 22 (1st)  
Hits: 29 (1st)  
Total Bases: 62 (1st)  
Home Runs: 9 (2nd)  
Extra Base Hits: 14 (2nd)  
RBIs: 23 (3rd)  
OBP: .513 (3rd)

- If you haven't seen Marcell Ozuna's recent left field escapade climbing the outfield wall for no apparent reason, it's a must see. From Doug Glanville: "We need a term that is the opposite of robbing a home run. Can you rob an out?"  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BQTe\\_MzQgb4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BQTe_MzQgb4)
- Chris Davis, party of one, your reservation is ready. Reservation in the 50-50 club, that is, as the only player to hit 50 home runs in a season and go 0 for 50
- And this nugget from Jason Stark: the Chicago Cubs' record in 2019 when scoring 10+ runs is 3 wins and 2 losses. For all other teams scoring 10+ runs in 2019 their combined record is 29-0

### Tribe Takes Title?

Though the research is a bit dated, in 2014 I opined that winning an HSL championship really is all about hitting, but pitching couldn't be ignored. At that time 5 of the previous 6 champions had led the league

in hitting. Curby won in 2012 with the 3rd best hitting team only because BT and Ted completely ignored pitching. If that tenet holds true in 2019 and Bob's troops can keep up the pace, we could be looking at the Year of the Tribe.

	Hitting Rank	Pitching Rank	Overall Rank
Tribe	1	4	1
Bombers	2	11	8
Tigers	3	10	7
Redbirds	4	8	5
Monarchs	5	2	3
Blues	6	13	13
Senators	7	5	4
Bears	8	12	11
Wahoos	9	3	6

- I know there's plenty of time for the roller coaster to come off the tracks, but the Tribe has the early markings of a champion
- The Bombers and Tigers need their pitching to come around and are being carried by strong offenses at the moment
- The Redbirds, Monarchs, and Senators are balanced but need some offense
- Chances are the Blues and Bears will begin an ascent to the upper half under the power of decent offenses if they can only get some pitching momentum
- The equation for the remaining five teams only needs flipping to the Hitting side to begin or continue their success

- Should we consider the Bums' current silver medal standing a mirage? Their nearly complete lack of plate production doesn't bode well for living up to Skip's pick for a Championship

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Lastly, HSL Brethren, I leave you with this...

"Life should NOT  
be a journey to the grave  
with the intention of arriving  
safely in an attractive  
and well preserved body,  
but rather to  
skid in sideways,  
Big Fred's pizza in one hand,  
a cold beer in the other,  
body thoroughly used up, totally worn out  
and screaming  
WOO HOO what a ride!"

*Screech*