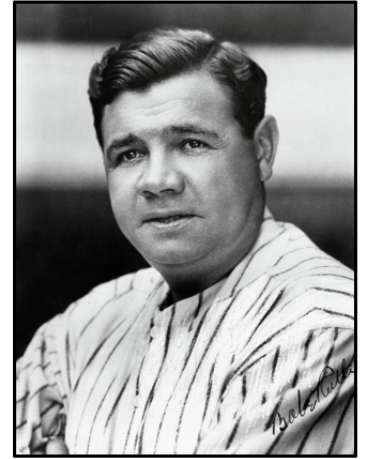




Babe Ruth

7-time World Series Champion
Career Batting Average: .342
Career Home Runs: 714
Career Pitching Record: 94-46
Career ERA: 2.28
1st in All-Time slugging percentage: .690
1st in All-Time OPS: 1.164



2019 Campaign

Edition No. 11

May 21, 2019

EN FUEGO REDBIRDS FLOCK AT TOP

Gentlemen:

The story of the week for Session 8 of the Hot Stove League Campaign was the white hot **Redbirds** of Brother Tirebiter, who rode the flaming wings of his **Crimson Chirpers** to the top of the Hot Stove League standings. With a whopping point total of 617.5 for the week, dem boids flew past both the **Bums** and the **Wahoos** to lay claim to the leader spot with an eight-week total of 3842.2 points, a total of 4.6 points ahead of the **Wahoos** and 139.5 points ahead of the **Bums**.

Leading the way for the **Redbirds** during week 8 was heretofore virtual unknown Brandon Woodruff, who carded 58.0 points for the second-highest individual pitching performance of the week, just below Joe Musgrove of the **Tigers** with 60.6 points. Household name Pablo López also chipped in 38.0 pitching points for the **'Birds** last week, and Charlie Morton likewise contributed 37.0 pitching points to the cause.

In terms of hitter contributions to the **Redbirds'** big week, reigning NL MVP Christian Yelich returned from his injury and recorded 38.7 points for the **Redbirds** during week 8, and teammate and PED aficionado Ryan Braun kicked in 36.5 points, while Rougned Odor tacked on 35.8.

Here are the standings through 8 weeks and the team point totals for 8 weeks, top to bottom, followed by all the other delectable weekly statistics that Linda is kind enough to gather for us:

**STANDINGS THRU WEEK 8
ENDING MAY 19, 2019**

1	Redbirds	3842.2	-
2	Wahoos	3837.6	4.6
3	Bums	3702.7	139.5
4	Tribe	3618.0	224.2
5	Tigers	3580.7	261.5
6	Senators	3573.8	268.4
7	Skipjacks	3507.6	334.6
8	Monarchs	3457.9	384.3
9	Bombers	3379.1	463.1
10	Chiefs	3353.3	488.9
11	Bears	3197.4	644.8
12	Cubs	3176.2	666.0
13	Blues	2923.6	918.6

**POINTS FOR WEEK 8
ENDING MAY 19, 2019**

1	Redbirds	617.5
2	Senators	524.3
3	Chiefs	518.3
4	Wahoos	467.9
5	Bombers	461.7
6	Bums	444.8
7	Blues	443.9
8	Tigers	436.5
9	Bears	429.2
10	Tribe	421.1
11	Monarchs	402.7
12	Cubs	400.5
13	Skipjacks	360.6

TOP 25 PITCHERS

1.	Justin Verlander	Bums	283.0
2.	Hyun-Jin Ryu	Cubs	258.0
3.	Zack Greinke	Chiefs	255.0
4.	Luis Castillo	Monarchs	252.0
5.	Stephen Strasburg	Bombers	226.0
6.	Gerrit Cole	Senators	223.0
	Patrick Corbin	Senators	223.0
8.	José Berríos	Monarchs	214.0
9.	Domingo Germán	Wahoos	211.0
10.	Matthew Boyd	Wahoos	210.0
11.	Tyler Glasnow	Tribe	208.0
12.	Shane Bieber	Senators	206.0
13.	Trevor Bauer	Bums	203.0
14.	Caleb Smith	Redbirds	200.0
15.	Max Scherzer	Wahoos	195.0
	Charlie Morton	Redbirds	195.0
17.	Brandon Woodruff	Redbirds	188.0
18.	Mike Minor	Bums	187.0
19.	Max Fried	Skipjacks	185.0
	Frankie Montas	Chiefs	185.0
21.	Yusei Kikuchi	Tribe	184.0
	Martín Pérez	Bombers	184.0
23.	German Márquez	Tribe	183.0
24.	Cole Hamels	Monarchs	182.0
25.	Blake Snell	Tigers	177.0

WHO'S HOT -- PITCHERS

1.	Joe Musgrove	Tigers	60.0
2.	Brandon Woodruff	Redbirds	58.0
3.	Shane Bieber	Senators	56.0
4.	Reynaldo López	Blues	53.0
5.	Noah Syndergaard	Redbirds	51.0
	Kyle Hendricks	Tigers	51.0
	Chris Sale	Chiefs	51.0
8.	Sandy Alcantara	Chiefs	45.0
9.	Trent Thornton	Bears	43.0
	Yusei Kikuchi	Tribe	43.0
	Jack Flaherty	Bears	43.0
12.	Kenta Maeda	Bums	42.0
13.	Frankie Montas	Chiefs	41.0
	Patrick Corbin	Senators	41.0
15.	Rich Hill	Bombers	39.0

	Danny Duffy	Monarchs	39.0
17.	Pablo López	Redbirds	38.0
	Jordan Lyles	Cubs	38.0
	Chris Bassitt	Cubs	38.0
20.	Zack Greinke	Chiefs	37.0
	Justin Verlander	Bums	37.0
	Charlie Morton	Redbirds	37.0
	Stephen Strasburg	Bombers	37.0
24.	Griffin Canning	Bears	35.0
25.	Carlos Carrasco	Blues	34.0

WHO'S NOT -- PITCHERS

1.	Miles Mikolas	Bums	-19.0
2.	Wade LeBlanc	Monarchs	-16.0
3.	Jeremy Hellickson	Skipjacks	-9.0
4.	Trevor Cahill	Bombers	-8.0
	Adam Wainwright	Redbirds	-8.0
	Corbin Burnes	Bums	-8.0
7.	Jon Lester	Tigers	-7.0
	Chris Archer	Monarchs	-7.0
9.	Jacob deGrom	Skipjacks	-6.0
10.	Cal Quantrill	Bears	-5.0
	Marco Gonzales	Wahoos	-5.0
12.	Daniel Norris	Cubs	-4.0
13.	Zack Wheeler	Bears	-3.0
	Trevor Bauer	Bums	-3.0
15.	Brad Keller	Blues	-2.0
16.	José Berríos	Monarchs	-1.0

TOP 25 HITTERS

1.	Cody Bellinger	Bombers	295.7
2.	Christian Yelich	Redbirds	266.3
3.	George Springer	Tribe	257.5
4.	Josh Bell	Chiefs	233.2
5.	Paul DeJong	Tribe	224.2
6.	Mike Trout	Monarchs	218.3
7.	Freddie Freeman	Monarchs	214.8
8.	Kris Bryant	Tigers	212.7
9.	Alex Bregman	Bears	209.4
10.	Javier Báez	Bears	209.1
11.	Joey Gallo	Tribe	205.6
12.	Nolan Arenado	Blues	205.5
13.	Jorge Polanco	Senators	202.5

14.	Charlie Blackmon	Skipjacks	196.6
15.	Mookie Betts	Chiefs	196.0
16.	Trevor Story	Wahoos	195.9
17.	Michael Brantley	Tigers	191.6
18.	Whit Merrifield	Bums	191.3
19.	Edwin Encarnación	Senators	191.0
20.	Adalberto Mondesi	Blues	190.8
21.	Alex Gordon	Monarchs	189.9
22.	Rhys Hoskins	Tribe	189.7
23.	Mitch Haniger	Senators	187.5
24.	Eduardo Escobar	Wahoos	187.1
25.	Carlos Correa	Tigers	186.6

WHO'S HOT -- HITTERS

1.	Josh Bell	Chiefs	53.1
2.	Anthony Rendon	Cubs	47.9
3.	Eduardo Escobar	Wahoos	44.8
4.	Freddie Freeman	Monarchs	43.3
5.	Vladimir Guerrero Jr.	Tribe	41.2
6.	C.J. Cron	Skipjacks	41.0
7.	Daniel Vogelbach	Chiefs	40.5
8.	Byron Buxton	Senators	39.1
9.	Christian Yelich	Redbirds	38.7
	Jorge Polanco	Senators	38.7
11.	Kris Bryant	Tigers	38.6
12.	Carlos Santana	Blues	38.4
13.	Logan Forsythe	Wahoos	38.2
14.	Jean Segura	Skipjacks	37.7
15.	Cody Bellinger	Bombers	37.0
16.	Joey Gallo	Tribe	36.6
17.	Ryan Braun	Redbirds	36.5
18.	Rougned Odor	Redbirds	35.8
19.	Willie Calhoun	Blues	35.5
20.	Mitch Haniger	Senators	35.0
21.	Mike Trout	Monarchs	34.5
22.	Mike Moustakas	Wahoos	34.0
	Tommy La Stella	Bombers	34.0
24.	Francisco Lindor	Cubs	33.6
25.	Yasmani Grandal	Bums	33.0

WHO'S NOT -- HITTERS

1.	Daniel Murphy	Tigers	-3.9
2.	Dwight Smith Jr.	Tribe	-3.0

3.	James McCann	Bombers	-2.8
4.	Asdrúbal Cabrera	Skipjacks	-2.0
5.	Rhys Hoskins	Tribe	-1.8
6.	Clint Frazier	Monarchs	-1.5
7.	Christin Stewart	Bombers	-1.0
8.	Yasiel Puig	Bombers	-0.5
9.	Kiké Hernández	Redbirds	-0.4
10.	Brendan Rodgers	Chiefs	-0.2

SKIP SEZ

- Maybe Cody Bellinger really can keep it up all year, as he is continuing to add at-bats to his sample size. At 295.7 points in less than one-third of the season, he is currently on pace for a 961.1-point season, which would be A-Rod(in his prime)-esque in scope.
- George Springer of the **Tribe** is now at 257.5 points, just two slots ahead of Paul DeJong of the **Tribe** with 224.2 points. Do not--I repeat, do not--write off Underbelly's charges just yet. He has the horses (four pitchers in the top 25, three hitters in the top 25), so let's just wait and see if U-Bob is both Trainer and Jockey.
- The following teams have three pitchers in the top 25: **Wahoos, Bums, Senators, Tribe, Monarchs** and **Redbirds**. The **Bombers** and **Chiefs** both have two pitchers in the top 25, and the **Skipjacks, Tigers** and **Cubs** have one each. There are no **Blues** pitchers in the Top 25.

On the hitting side, the **Tribe** leads all teams with four hitters in the top 25 (Springer, DeJong, Gallo and Hoskins). The **Monarchs, Tigers** and **Senators** each have three hitters in the top 25; the **Wahoos, Chiefs, Bears** and **Blues** each have two hitters in the top 25; and the **Bums, Bombers, Redbirds** and **Skipjacks** have one hitter apiece in the top 25. The woeful **Cubs** have nary a hitter in the top 25.

- Notable low draft picks who are in their respective Top 25's include the following: For pitchers, Ryu of the **Cubs**, drafted in the 13th round, is 2nd overall; Domingo Germán of the **Wahoos**, drafted in the 22nd round, is in 9th; Matthew Boyd of the **'Hoos**, drafted in Round 27, is 10th overall; Caleb Smith of the **Redbirds**, drafted

in the 24th round, is in 14th; Brandon Woodruff of the **Redbirds**, drafted in the 19th round, is No. 17; Max Fried of the **Skipjacks**, drafted in Round 29, and Frankie Montas of the **Chiefs**, also drafted in the 29th round, are tied for 19th place among pitchers with 185 points; and free agents Mike Minor of the **Bums** (18th) and Martín Pérez of the **Bombers** (21st) both are in the top 25.

As for hitters, Josh Bell of the **Chiefs**, drafted in the 15th round, is in 4th position with 233.2 points. Jorge Polanco of the **Senators**, drafted in the 17th round, is in the 13th position with 202.5 points. Eduardo Escobar of the **Wahoos**, drafted in the 13th round, is in 24th place with 171.0 points; and free agent Alex Gordon of the **Monarchs**, undrafted on Draft Day, is in 21st place with 189.9 points.

UPDATED DIRECTORY

Provided for your use and enjoyment please find an updated directory of Owners and Managers in the Hot Stove League, available to you at the following [link](#), or on the website.

TWO GREAT BASEBALL MOVIES CELEBRATE THEIR 30-YEAR ANNIVERSARIES

I share with you [here](#) an article from my May/June *Baseball Digest* which celebrates the 30-year anniversary of two of the best baseball movies of all time, *Field of Dreams* and *Major League*. I couldn't agree more with the sentiments about these two great movies, which were both listed in my list of Top Ten Baseball Movies back on May 28, 2014, in Edition No. 8 of *From the Bullpen* from that year.

Having watched *Field of Dreams* on a Sunday afternoon just a couple of weeks ago after channel surfing for something to watch on the treadmill, I cannot believe how emotional I became during two parts of the movie: (1) When Moonlight Graham, as an imaginary player, crossed over the line between then and here and saved Costner's screen daughter from choking on a hot dog, thereby giving up his playing career. Burt Lancaster was pitch perfect as kindly old Dr. Archie Graham in his final big-screen role; (2) The other scene which evoked tears from this sentimental old fool was, of course, when Costner "had a

catch" with his ghost-out-of-the-cornfield father. I was reminded of my own youth and tossing the ball back and forth with Jack.

There were a couple of great pieces of trivia from the article that are worth filing away. Legendary Southern Cal coach Rod Dedeaux, a paid consultant for *Field of Dreams*, was the virtual embodiment of Moonlight Graham in terms of his own playing career. Dedeaux was the Dodgers' starting shortstop in the 1935 season finale against the Philadelphia Phillies at Ebbets Field and went 1-for-4, and also played as a late-inning defensive replacement at shortstop a day earlier, but never batted. The following year, playing for Dayton in the Class C Midatlantic League, Dedeaux cracked his vertebra and his playing career was over.

In *Major League*, major league veteran Pete Vuckovich played the role of Clu Haywood, the menacing Yankee slugger who stepped in against pitcher Ricky Vaughn in the 9th inning of the one-game playoff. Although he played the part of a slugger in the movie, as an American league pitcher in his career, he didn't hit a single home run as a player.

TRANG REVISITED

My nephew Jesse Krause recently told me that he had been reading through old *Bullpens*, and found one he enjoyed which featured Bob and his former fictional underling at ArtFX, Trang, which was in response to an earlier bit of grouching by Underbelly in his *Bellyflop* about Hot Stove League scoring caps and how they were singlehandedly preventing him from success. I repeat here Trang's rebuttal, as gathered in an interview by a member of the *From the Bullpen* staff, published in Edition No. 31 on October 13, 1999:

IN RE BELLYFLOP

You all had a chance to read U-Bob's dry little piece on his qualms about the point caps in last week's special issue of *The Bellyflop*. I've been trying to think of a way to respond to this position paper without coming right out and calling the poor guy an absolute blithering ignoramus, or at a minimum, a textbook example of the devolution of homo sapiens, but softer words don't come to

mind and wouldn't cut the mustard anyway. Sometimes a spade simply needs to be labeled a spade.

But before attaching any harsh labels to this long-time and beloved league member, I thought it best to try to investigate the matter a bit further, so I paid a visit to U-Bob's coworker, Trang Nguyen, to try to learn a little bit more about U-Bob's discussion of the point caps with him. It was enlightening, indeed.

"So, Trang, I understand that you had a nice little conversation with my good friend U-belly about our rotisserie baseball league, and how the point cap limitations work, eh?"

"Me talk with Mr. Bob? No, Mr. Bob tell me – no, yell at me about bad baseball system. This what you ask about?"

"What do you mean, Trang?"

"Well, three, four days last week, and four, maybe five days week before, Mr. Bob chain me to hot screen-printer after hours – he tell me I get big overtime pay of one dollar ten cents per hour – and scream and yell at me over and over about many baseball problems he has."

"Baseball problems. What do you mean?"

"Like him say, 'Come on, Trang, work that screen press, faster, faster, you lazy, third-world bloodsucker – THOSE FRIGGIN' POINT CAPS, DANTE BICHETTE HITS TWO HOME RUNS AND SEVEN RBIS AND I NET OUT THE SAME THREE POINTS THAT SKIPPER GOT FOR A BLOWN SAVE FROM SCOTT WILLIAMSON LAST NIGHT, WHAT THE 2@#\$\$@ IS UP WITH THAT, EH, TRANG!'"

"Wow. What'd you say to him, Trang?"

"I say, 'You right, Mr. Bob, you right. Not fair, not fair, not fair. Arrrgh! Now, please, let fingers out of hot press.' Mr. Bob tell me, 'Sorry, Trang. Now let's move that line of sweatshirts over to the D line and SONOFABITCH, LARRY WALKER JUST WENT FIVE-FOR-FIVE FOR MY TEAM, AND GUESS HOW MANY POINTS I'M GOING TO NET OUT OF THAT, TRANG, JUST GUESS.'

I say 'I can't, Mr. Bob, aieeee, I can't until you let my head out of hot dye vat. Thank you. You right, Mr. Bob, you right. Hitting point caps, they suck very much. You very right.' Then I say, 'But I do have a question, Mr. Bob. Why they put point caps in place *this* year?' "

"Yeah? What'd he say?"

"Mr. Bob tell me, 'Well, it wasn't just this year.'

"I ask him how many years he been in league. He say this his seventh year under the Bill James system."

"Uh-huh. Then what, Trang?"

"I ask him, 'How many years they have point caps in place, Mr. Bob?' He say, 'Why, all seven, Trang. Why you ask? -- I mean, why *do* you ask?' I say him, 'Well, if point caps be in place all seven years, and point caps cause big hurt on you before, why you not draft team this year in way so point caps not hurt you so much, Mr. Bob?' Then he say 'Get your ass back on that machine and get to work, and I mean now, Trang. How can I explain an American game to an ignorant rice-paddy refugee. Sheesh.'"

And now, my friends, you know the rest of the story.

U-belly has sort of become the Ernie Chambers of our baseball league. Hey, if somebody wants to waste an entire career bucking the system at his own expense and at the expense of his constituents, whom am I to say? Go ahead, U-Bob, keep drafting good hitting, ignoring good pitching, and we'll look for your name on The Cup next Millennium. I mean, *the* next millennium.

* * * * *

Looking forward to seeing many of you on our Trip to Arlington June 7-9.

Skipper