2019 NEBRASKA HOT STOVE LEAGUE

XXXV

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. 17 | August 13, 2019

Estimable colleagues:

REDBIRDS RULE ROOST, STILL

For the fifth week in a row, JimEd and his **Crimson Chirpers** find themselves atop the Hot Stove League standings, and with a sizeable cushion over the ne'er-do-wells that are in second place. With another bountiful week (535.3 points), the '**Boids** now rule the roost with a grand total of 9778.8 points, a fur piece ahead of the second place **Senators** (9523.7), the third place **Monarchs** (9457.7) and the fourth place **Wahoos** (9455.0).

Here are the Week 20 standings from top to bottom:

1	Redbirds	9778.8	-
2	Senators	9523.7	255.1
3	Monarchs	9457.7	321.1
4	Wahoos	9455.0	323.8
5	Bums	9365.6	413.2
6	Skipjacks	9187.5	591.3
7	Bombers	8777.4	1001.4
8	Chiefs	8759.7	1019.1
9	Bears	8631.4	1147.4
10	Tigers	8515.0	1263.8
11	Cubs	8459.4	1319.4

12	Tribe	8355.4	1423.4
13	Blues	7797.3	1981.5

For the second week in a row, the **Senators** have notched the most points for the week, with the *en fuego* **Senators** garnering the considerable total of 675.3 points for the week ending August 11, 2019. With the red hot Soler Heater chalking up 70.0 points for the week and Ozzie Albies chiming in with 65.8 points for the week, only the **Redbirds**' Ronald Acuña Jr. (70.2) put more points on the board during Week 20.

On the pitching side of the equation, **Senators** newcomer Aaron Civale made his debut with the team memorable by putting up a 46.0 point week, while **Senators** stalwart Mike Fiers had a banner game during the week and contributed 39.0 points to the cause.

Here are the point totals for Week 20 for all thirteen teams in the league:

1	Senators	675.3
2	Bombers	581.3
3	Chiefs	555.1
4	Bears	552.7
5	Redbirds	535.3
6	Bums	518.4
7	Cubs	502.4
8	Monarchs	487.5
9	Skipjacks	454.9
10	Tigers	443.9
11	Tribe	429.7
12	Blues	384.9
13	Wahoos	372.2

The once white-hot **Wahoos** found themselves mired in a slump during this past week, managing only 372.2 points to trail even the Bowel Dwelling **Blues** and the neighboring **Tribe**. Contributing to PAwesome's misfortunate week was the fact that not a single one of his pitchers made the Top 25 Who's Hot list for the week, and two of his flame throwers (Matt Boyd -8.0, and J.A. Happ -2.0) found their way onto the Who's Not roster for the week. Compounding the situation for the **'Hoos** was the fact that only one hitter from the team (Nicholas Castellanos 52.0) cracked the top 25 Who's Hot Hitters list.

The good news for PAwesome is that his Reversion to the Mean doctrine will be manifest shortly, and the **Wahoos** will heat up and move back up the leaderboard

while the scorching **Senators**' lineup will undoubtedly hit a cold snap at the worst possible time--in the heat of a late August/September pennant race. But it was fun while it lasted.

And now, your weekly fare of individual player rankings:

TOP 25 PITCHERS

1.	Justin Verlander	Bums	682.0
2.	Gerrit Cole	Senators	651.0
3.	Shane Bieber	Senators	579.0
4.	Hyun-Jin Ryu	Cubs	567.0
5.	Charlie Morton	Redbirds	551.0
6.	Max Scherzer	Wahoos	538.0
7.	Stephen Strasburg	Bombers	534.0
8.	Luis Castillo	Monarchs	532.0
9.	Jacob deGrom	Skipjacks	530.0
10.	Zack Greinke	Chiefs	524.0
11.	Lance Lynn	Bums	521.0
12.	Trevor Bauer	Tribe	510.0
13.	Mike Minor	Bums	496.0
14.	Patrick Corbin	Senators	495.0
	Walker Buehler	Skipjacks	495.0
16.	Clayton Kershaw	Tigers	486.0
17.	Lucas Giolito	Tribe	480.0
18.	José Berríos	Monarchs	477.0
19.	Mike Fiers	Senators	462.0
20.	Aaron Nola	Wahoos	457.0
21.	Mike Soroka	Redbirds	443.0
22.	Wade Miley	Bums	441.0
23.	Madison Bumgarner	Bombers	437.0
24.	German Márquez	Tribe	435.0
25.	Chris Sale	Chiefs	431.0

WHO'S HOT -- PITCHERS

1.	Mike Minor	Bums	76.0
2.	Luis Castillo	Monarchs	60.0
3.	Ryan Yarbrough	Tigers	55.0
4.	Dinelson Lamet	Chiefs	54.0
5.	Jakob Junis	Blues	52.0
6.	Chris Bassitt	Cubs	51.0
7.	Mike Soroka	Redbirds	48.0
	Mike Montgomery	Monarchs	48.0

	Jacob deGrom	Skipjacks	48.0
	Chris Sale	Chiefs	48.0
11.	Lucas Giolito	Tribe	47.0
12.	Aaron Civale	Senators	46.0
13.	Jake Odorizzi	Bombers	43.0
	Jeff Samardzija	Cubs	43.0
15.	Charlie Morton	Redbirds	41.0
16.	Jordan Lyles	Tribe	40.0
17.	Mike Fiers	Senators	39.0
18.	Trevor Bauer	Tribe	38.0
	Masahiro Tanaka	Tigers	38.0
20.	Kenta Maeda	Bums	37.0
	José Quintana	Redbirds	37.0
22.	German Márquez	Tribe	36.0
	Clayton Kershaw	Tigers	36.0
24.	Madison Bumgarner	Bombers	35.0
	Mike Clevinger	Monarchs	35.0

WHO'S NOT -- PITCHERS

1.	Dallas Keuchel	Monarchs	-14.0
2.	Mike Leake	Bums	-9.0
	Homer Bailey	Blues	-9.0
	Andrew Cashner	Skipjacks	-9.0
5.	Kyle Gibson	Tribe	-8.0
	Matthew Boyd	Wahoos	-8.0
7.	Caleb Smith	Redbirds	-7.0
	Trevor Williams	Skipjacks	-7.0
	José Suarez	Blues	-7.0
	Devin Smeltzer	Bears	-7.0
	Jon Lester	Tigers	-7.0
12.	Alex Young	Bombers	-6.0
	Cole Hamels	Monarchs	-6.0
	Alex Wood	Cubs	-6.0
15.	Martín Pérez	Bombers	-4.0
	Pedro Payano	Bears	-4.0
17.	Julio Urías	Skipjacks	-2.0
	J.A. Happ	Wahoos	-2.0
19.	Brad Keller	Blues	-1.0
	Jason Vargas	Cubs	-1.0

TOP 25 HITTERS

1.	Mike Trout	Monarchs	619.9
2.	Christian Yelich	Redbirds	599.2

3.	Cody Bellinger	Bombers	592.1
4.	Freddie Freeman	Monarchs	570.9
5.	Ronald Acuña Jr.	Redbirds	564.6
6.	Xander Bogaerts	Senators	543.7
7.	Alex Bregman	Bears	537.3
8.	Rafael Devers	Blues	532.3
9.	Anthony Rendon	Cubs	524.9
10.	Mookie Betts	Chiefs	521.7
11.	Ketel Marte	Skipjacks	512.6
12.	Josh Bell	Chiefs	504.7
13.	Pete Alonso	Tribe	502.3
14.	Nolan Arenado	Blues	496.6
15.	Trevor Story	Wahoos	487.0
16.	Eduardo Escobar	Wahoos	486.9
17.	Carlos Santana	Blues	485.2
18.	DJ LeMahieu	Monarchs	481.5
	Juan Soto	Blues	481.5
20.	Ozzie Albies	Senators	481.0
21.	Javier Báez	Bears	478.9
22.	J.D. Martinez	Bums	477.7
23.	Whit Merrifield	Bums	477.3
24.	Kris Bryant	Tigers	476.8
25.	Charlie Blackmon	Skipjacks	472.2

WHO'S HOT -- HITTERS

1.	Ronald Acuña Jr.	Redbirds	70.2
2.	Jorge Soler	Senators	70.0
3.	Ozzie Albies	Senators	65.8
4.	Aristides Aquino	Cubs	63.6
5.	Mike Tauchman	Tigers	61.5
6.	Gio Urshela	Bombers	56.5
7.	Hunter Dozier	Redbirds	55.8
8.	Freddie Freeman	Monarchs	52.2
9.	Nicholas Castellanos	Wahoos	52.0
10.	Yordan Alvarez	Bombers	50.0
11.	Brian Anderson	Senators	49.1
12.	Yuli Gurriel	Skipjacks	48.6
13.	Whit Merrifield	Bums	47.1
14.	J.D. Martinez	Bums	46.5
15.	Ian Happ	Skipjacks	45.9
16.	Alex Bregman	Bears	45.1
17.	Juan Soto	Blues	44.5
18.	J.D. Davis	Senators	43.0
19.	Jonathan Villar	Bombers	42.4

20.	José Ramírez	Cubs	41.9
21.	Carlos Correa	Tigers	40.2
22.	Kevin Pillar	Bombers	40.0
23.	José Abreu	Redbirds	39.7
24.	Michael Conforto	Skipjacks	39.5
25.	Fernando Tatis Jr.	Tribe	39.0

WHO'S NOT -- HITTERS

1.	Brian Dozier	Tigers	-6.5
2.	Adam Duvall	Tigers	-5.4
3.	Gleyber Torres	Redbirds	-4.7
4.	Travis d'Arnaud	Tigers	-3.3
5.	Tommy Pham	Redbirds	-3.0
6.	Roberto Pérez	Bears	-2.0
7.	Daniel Murphy	Tigers	-1.9
8.	David Fletcher	Chiefs	-1.5
9.	Jay Bruce	Bears	-1.4
10.	Franmil Reyes	Bums	-1.0
11.	Manny Machado	Monarchs	-0.4

SKIPPER SEZ

Even with a lackluster 10-point showing on Sunday, Justin Verlander continues to top the Top 25 Pitcher list with 682.0 points. However, Astros moundmate Gerrit Cole is hot on his heels with 651.0 points, a spirited competition between teammates in the mold of Koufax-Drysdale.

It has long been said in the HSL that in order to win the league, you have to draft a solid team on Draft Day, but you also have to catch a little bit of lightning in the bottle. Jim Ed's team this year is proof positive of that theorem. Picking Yelich in the 1st, Acuña in the 2nd and Suarez in the 4th certainly gave the **Redbirds** a terrific trio of batsmen to lead the hitting side of the ledger, but Tirebiter only drafted two pitchers in the first 8 rounds, Noah Syndergaard in the 3rd and Masahiro Tanaka in the 8th, and neither of them are having banner years. However, his 9th round pick, Charlie Morton, is currently the fifth-highest scoring pitcher with 551.0 points while pitching for the ho-hum Rays, and Mike Soroka, who didn't even get drafted on Draft Day, is the 21st best pitcher with 443.0 points. Ben Franklin would have gotten a real jolt out of this pair of **Chirpers,** pun fully intended.

Get ready for the **Blessed Butterflies** to rev it up once more. After a smoking hot stretch of eight weeks that propelled the monarchy from 9th place to 3rd place, their collective engines were overheated and had to cool off for a spell, which they have. But with the Run for Red October just

around the bend, look for Screech's **Insidious Insects** to retool, refuel and return to their glorious past, *sans* Yastrzemski.

Paced by Gio Urshela (56.5), Yordan Alvarez (50.0), Jonathan Villar (42.4), and Kevin Pillar (40.0), the resurgent **Bombers** garnered a jaw-dropping 581.3 points for the week, second most in the league during Week 20. To be perfectly honest, I thought that both Villar and Pillar had retired several seasons ago, but quite obviously they are still playing, and playing quite well, right now. Once again, my chief of Scouting Operations has let me down.

Without a single hitter on the weekly Who's Hot list, somehow **B**low **T**op's **Chiefs** managed to post the third-highest point total for Week 20 (555.1), allowing his eighth-place **Chiefs** to stay within shouting distance of the seventh-place **Bombers** (margin 17.7 points). Clearly it was **B**ug **T**ussel Krause's savvy free agent pickup of Dinelson Lamet (54.0) and the thirteen-strikeout, 48.0 point masterpiece by Chris Sale that permitted the **B**ombastic **T**euton to finally display the **Chiefs**' potential. Maybe now Beth can finally take the pacifier out and we can only hope that his incessant bawling about his tragic HSL season is over.

Kudos to Sunny, our freshly birthdayed 60-year-old, who climbed 13,000 feet of a 14,000 foot Colorado peak, only to have his trusty Sherpa Jan put the kybosh on the final stretch. Better leave her home when you tackle Everest, Jonny.

Frankly, Sunny, your walk in the steps of Edmund Hillary was only the second bravest thing that you did last week. The bravest was daring to put Homer Bailey in your starting lineup, which earned you (no surprise here) -9 points for the effort. Bravo. In his long and sordid Hot Stove League career, Homer Bailey has been dumped more times than Itchie during his first month at Abel Hall--countless.

FROM THE GLUE FACTORY

Having been labeled a Beater of Dead Horses by our beloved Commissioner, I will pull the whip back from Secretariat and direct it instead to the flank of one Eeyore. Just a few quick lashes to the charter member of our one-man HSL Stubbornness Society, and we will move on.

As well documented in this organ in earlier issues this season, Big Guy unapologetically but inexplicably refuses to budge an inch on the issue of the Van Shoulder Incident, in spite of mounds of evidence opposing his position. So in Edition No. 15, I inquired as to whether he was *more* sure of his memory of the Van Shoulder Incident *or* the situs of the original Hot Stove League Draft in 1985. After the initial inquiry was met with radio silence, the question was posed to him again in my email of last week, and any of you that pay attention to such things saw his response:

> "I have not seen anything to change my mind about how I remember either incident."

One would expect a lawyerly response from a lawyer of Big Guy's excellence, and one was provided. Without actually answering the question, Big Guy at least implied that he is equally sure of both his memory of the Van Shoulder Incident and his Kreskin-like recollection of the location of our historic first Draft.

So this begs the question: If provided with irrefutable evidence of one or the other, would Eeyore ever concede an inch, admitting that maybe, just maybe, his memory was faulty? And if his memory was faulty on one of these two issues, might it not be possible that it was faulty on the other issue, both of which are momentous occasions in the epic existence of the Hot Stove League?

THE PUDDING

Here's the proof (of the location of the 1985 Draft on April 13, 1985.) Featured immediately below is the list I last updated on January 1 of 1996 to document all of the various places I have lived throughout my life, dating back to 1956 when I was born in Chula Vista, California.

DDE Residences

Birth - 1957	Chula Vista, California
1957 - August 1960	Beatrice, NE
August 1960 - August 1975	Lincoln, NE 2530 N. 63rd St.
August 1975 - Sept. 1975	Harbor West Trailer Court (with John Knap)
Sept. 1975 - August 1977	2530 N. 63rd St.
August 1977 - May 1978	Theta Xi Fraternity-1535 "R"
May 1978 - August 1978	2530 N. 63rd St.
August 1978 - Dec. 1978	Theta Xi Fraternity-1535 "R"
Jan. 1979 - August 1979	2530 N. 63rd St.
August 1979 - Dec. 1979	1501 Superior St. Apt. 4
Jan. 1980 - August 1980	Grand Island, NE
August 1980 - May 1981	3609 Baldwin #1-Lincoln
May 1981 - June 1981	Vinton, IA (Trailer Home)
July 1981 - August 1981	Des Moines, IA (Motel)
August 1981 - May 1983	2530 N. 63rd St.
May 1983 - Nov. 1984	Omaha - 10681 Hamilton Plz. #405
Nov. 1984 - July 1985	Omaha - 10920 Spaulding Plz.
July 1985 - April 1991	1411 N. 150th St. (Pepperwood)
April 1991 - Present	12950 Eagle Run Dr. (Eagle Run)

Updated 1-1-96

And as many of you know, I am a compulsive list-maker, and I have all kinds of lists tucked away here and there in my home office and at my office office, and I came across this one recently when looking for something else. This list, put together long before there was a controversy about where the first HSL Draft took place, clearly shows that I moved into my apartment at 10920 Spaulding Plaza in November of 1984, which was not only more than four months prior to our first Draft in April of 1985, but it was even before Big Guy had his brainchild of an idea to form a fantasy league after reading about the *Rotisserie League* in New York City.

I suppose Eeyore could write this list off as being something that I cooked up after the fact, like I typed it up last week and backdated it. But I didn't.

In fact, in the same notebook that I found this list, I found the following email that I sent to myself in August of 2002, containing a similar list of all of the different places that I have lived, but with more detail on where I lived in Imperial Beach, California after my birth in Chula Vista, and continuing my residences from 1996-2002. Again, Big Guy could make the same argument that this is a document that I typed up after the fact and backdated, but I didn't.

From: "Dave Ernst" <ddernst@cox.net>
To: "DDE-Work" <dernst@gphlawfirm.com>
Date: 8/20/2002 12:00 AM
Subject: Residences of DDe

DDE Residences

Birth - 1957	939 Florida Street 230 Elder Street	Imperial Beach, CA
1957 - August 1960	815 Jefferson Street	Beatrice, NE
Aug. 1960 - Aug. 1975	2530 N. 63rd Street	Lincoln, NE
Aug. 1975 - Sept. 1975	Harbor West Trailer Ct.	Lincoln, NE
Sept. 1975 - Aug. 1977	2530 N. 63rd St.	Lincoln, NE
Aug. 1977 - May 1978	1535 R Street (Theta Xi Fraternity)	Lincoln, NE
May 1978 - Aug. 1978	2530 N. 63rd St.	Lincoln, NE
Aug. 1978 - Dec. 1978	1535 R Street	Lincoln, NE
Jan. 1979 - Aug. 1979	2530 N. 63rd St.	Lincoln, NE
Aug. 1979 - Dec. 1979	1501 Superior St. #4 (Randy Smith, Mark Creglow)	Lincoln, NE
Jan. 1980 - Aug. 1980		Grand Island, NE
Aug. 1980 - May 1981	3609 Baldwin#1 (Brian Hennings)	Lincoln, NE
May 1981 - June 1981	Heaven's Gate Trailer Estates	Vinton, IA
July 1981 - Aug. 1981		Des Moines, IA
Aug. 1981 - May 1983	2530 N. 63rd St.	Lincoln, NE
May 1983 - Nov. 1984	10681 Hamilton Plaza #405	Omaha, NE
Nov. 1984 - July 1985	10920 Spaulding Plaza	Omaha, NE
July 1985 - April 1991	1411 No. 150th St.	Omaha, NE
April 1991 - May 1996	12959 Eagle Run Dr.	Omaha, NE
May 1996 - Nov. 1996	63 Shaker Place, Ginger Cove	Valley, NE

Nov. 1996 - Present	4224 S. 180th St.	Omaha, NE

But the *pièce de résistance* is yet to come. Read on.

UNCLE SAM TO THE RESCUE

Never let it be said that I enjoy paying taxes, federal or state, or that I would volunteer to pay them if Uncle Sam didn't require it. But in this one instance, Uncle Sam has done me a favor, because I found my boxed-away notebook of old tax returns and disinterred the return for 1985. Here it is:

1984

Form **1040** Department of the Treasury—Internal Revenue Service
U.S. Individual Income Tax Return 1984 (O)

For the year January 1-December 31, 1984, or other tax year beginning , 1984, ending , 19 . OMB No. 1545-0074

Use IRS label. Otherwise, please print or type.	
Your first name and initial (if joint return, also give spouse's name and initial) Last name: DAVID A. ERNST	Your social security number: 508 74 8420
Present home address (Number and street, including apartment number, or rural route): 10920 SPALDING	Spouse's social security number
City, town or post office, State, and ZIP code: OMAHA NEBRASKA 68164	Your occupation: ATTORNEY — Spouse's occupation

Presidential Election Campaign ▶ Do you want $1 to go to this fund? ☒ Yes ☐ No
If joint return, does your spouse want $1 to go to this fund? ☐ Yes ☐ No
Note: Checking "Yes" will not change your tax or reduce your refund.

For Privacy Act and Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see Instructions.

Filing Status (Check only one box.)
1 ☒ Single
2 ☐ Married filing joint return (even if only one had income)
3 ☐ Married filing separate return. Enter spouse's social security no. above and full name here.
4 ☐ Head of household (with qualifying person). (See page 5 of Instructions.) If the qualifying person is your unmarried child but not your dependent, write child's name here.
5 ☐ Qualifying widow(er) with dependent child (Year spouse died ▶ 19). (See page 6 of Instructions.)

Exemptions (Always check the box labeled Yourself. Check other boxes if they apply.)
6a ☒ Yourself ☐ 65 or over ☐ Blind
b ☐ Spouse ☐ 65 or over ☐ Blind — Enter number of boxes checked on 6a and b ▶ 1
c First names of your dependent children who lived with you — Enter number of children listed on 6c ▶
d Other dependents: (1) Name (2) Relationship (3) Number of months lived in your home (4) Did dependent have income of $1,000 or more? (5) Did you provide more than one-half of dependent's support? — Enter number of other dependents ▶
e Total number of exemptions claimed (also complete line 36) — Add numbers entered in boxes above ▶ 1

Income (Please attach Copy B of your Forms W-2, W-2G, and W-2P here. If you do not have a W-2, see page 4 of Instructions.)

Line	Description	Amount
7	Wages, salaries, tips, etc.	27333
8	Interest income (also attach Schedule B if over $400)	
9a	Dividends (also attach Schedule B if over $400) , 9b Exclusion	
9c	Subtract line 9b from line 9a and enter the result	
10	Refunds of State and local income taxes, from the worksheet on page 9 of Instructions (do not enter an amount unless you itemized deductions for those taxes in an earlier year—see page 9)	
11	Alimony received	
12	Business income or (loss) (attach Schedule C)	
13	Capital gain or (loss) (attach Schedule D)	
14	40% of capital gain distributions not reported on line 13 (see page 9 of Instructions)	
15	Supplemental gains or (losses) (attach Form 4797)	
16	Fully taxable pensions, IRA distributions, and annuities not reported on line 17	
17a	Other pensions and annuities, including rollovers. Total received	
17b	Taxable amount, if any, from the worksheet on page 10 of Instructions	
18	Rents, royalties, partnerships, estates, trusts, etc. (attach Schedule E)	
19	Farm income or (loss) (attach Schedule F)	
20a	Unemployment compensation (insurance). Total received	
20b	Taxable amount, if any, from the worksheet on page 10 of Instructions	
21a	Social security benefits. (see page 10 of Instructions)	
21b	Taxable amount, if any, from the worksheet on page 11 of Instructions	
22	Other income (state nature and source—see page 11 of Instructions)	
23	Add lines 7 through 22. This is your **total income** ▶	27333

Please attach check or money order here.

Adjustments to Income (See Instructions on page 11.)

Line	Description	Amount	Total
24	Moving expense (attach Form 3903 or 3903F)		
25	Employee business expenses (attach Form 2106)	4434	
26a	IRA deduction, from the worksheet on page 12		
b	Enter here IRA payments you made in 1985 that are included in line 26a above ▶		
27	Payments to a Keogh (H.R. 10) retirement plan		
28	Penalty on early withdrawal of savings		
29	Alimony paid		
30	Deduction for a married couple when both work (attach Schedule W)		
31	Add lines 24 through 30. These are your **total adjustments** ▶		4434

Adjusted Gross Income
32 Subtract line 31 from line 23. This is your **adjusted gross income**. *If this line is less than $10,000, see "Earned Income Credit" (line 59) on page 16 of Instructions. If you want IRS to figure your tax, see page 12 of Instructions.* ▶ 32: 22899

Form 1040 (1984) Page 2

Tax Computation (See Instructions on page 13.)

Line	Description	Amount
33	Amount from line 32 (adjusted gross income)	22899
34a	If you itemize, attach Schedule A (Form 1040) and enter the amount from Schedule A, line 26. Caution: If you have unearned income and can be claimed as a dependent on your parent's return, check here ▶ ☐ and see page 13 of the Instructions. Also see page 13 if: • You are married filing a separate return and your spouse itemizes deductions, OR • You file Form 4563, OR • You are a dual-status alien.	
34b	If you do not itemize deductions, and you have charitable contributions, complete the worksheet on page 14. Then enter the allowable part of your contributions here	75
35	Subtract line 34a or 34b, whichever applies, from line 33	22824
36	Multiply $1,000 by the total number of exemptions claimed on Form 1040, line 6e	1000
37	Taxable Income. Subtract line 36 from line 35	21824
38	Tax. Enter tax here and check if from ☒ Tax Table, ☐ Tax Rate Schedule X, Y, or Z, or ☐ Schedule G	3680
39	Additional Taxes. (See page 14 of Instructions.) Enter here and check if from ☐ Form 4970, ☐ Form 4972, or ☐ Form 5544	
40	Add lines 38 and 39. Enter the total ▶	3680

Credits (See Instructions on page 14.)

Line	Description	Amount	Total
41	Credit for child and dependent care expenses (attach Form 2441)		
42	Credit for the elderly and the permanently and totally disabled (attach Schedule R)		
43	Residential energy credit (attach Form 5695)		
44	Partial credit for political contributions for which you have receipts		
45	Add lines 41 through 44. These are your total personal credits		-0-
46	Subtract line 45 from 40. Enter the result (but not less than zero)		3680
47	Foreign tax credit (attach Form 1116)		
48	General business credit. Check if from ☐ Form 3800, ☒ Form 3468, ☐ Form 5884, ☐ Form 6478	432	
49	Add lines 47 and 48. These are your total business and other credits		432
50	Subtract line 49 from 46. Enter the result (but not less than zero) ▶		3248

Other Taxes (Including Advance EIC Payments)

Line	Description	Amount
51	Self-employment tax (attach Schedule SE)	
52	Alternative minimum tax (attach Form 6251)	
53	Tax from recapture of investment credit (attach Form 4255)	
54	Social security tax on tip income not reported to employer (attach Form 4137)	
55	Tax on an IRA (attach Form 5329)	
56	Add lines 50 through 55. This is your **total tax** ▶	3248

Payments (Attach Forms W-2, W-2G, and W-2P to front.)

Line	Description	Amount	Total
57	Federal income tax withheld	5656	
58	1984 estimated tax payments and amount applied from 1983 return		
59	Earned income credit. If line 33 is under $10,000, see page 16		
60	Amount paid with Form 4868		
61	Excess social security tax and RRTA tax withheld (two or more employers)		
62	Credit for Federal tax on gasoline and special fuels (attach Form 4136)		
63	Regulated Investment Company credit (attach Form 2439)		
64	Add lines 57 through 63. These are your **total payments** ▶		5656

Refund or Amount You Owe

Line	Description	Amount
65	If line 64 is larger than line 56, enter amount **OVERPAID** ▶	2408
66	Amount of line 65 to be **REFUNDED TO YOU** ▶	2408
67	Amount of line 65 to be applied to your 1985 estimated tax ▶ 67	
68	If line 56 is larger than line 64, enter **AMOUNT YOU OWE**. Attach check or money order for full amount payable to "Internal Revenue Service." Write your social security number and "1984 Form 1040" on it ▶ (Check ▶ ☐ if Form 2210 (2210F) is attached. See page 17 of Instructions.) $	

Please Sign Here
Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return and accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, they are true, correct, and complete. Declaration of preparer (other than taxpayer) is based on all information of which preparer has any knowledge.
Your signature [signature] Date 11-21-85 ▶ Spouse's signature (if filing jointly, BOTH must sign)

Paid Preparer's Use Only
Preparer's signature ▶ Date Check if self-employed ☐ Preparer's social security no.
Firm's name (or yours, if self-employed) and address ▶ E.I. No. ZIP code

☆ U.S.GPO:1984-0-423-073 ☆E.I.#430814328

Pay no attention to the paltry sum that I was earning at the time, it actually was pretty much the market rate for second year attorneys in the Omaha area. More to the point, take a look at the date on the tax return, January 21, 1985, signed by yours truly. So if this document is accepted at face value, I was clearly living in my Spalding Plaza townhouse at least by January of 1985, more than two months prior to our original HSL Draft. Back in those days, I was doing my own tax returns, and since I had a modest refund coming from the IRS, I wanted to get it on file as soon as possible, which explains the January filing.

With this, I assume that even Big Guy will now concede that our initial draft was held at my Spaulding Plaza townhome in April of 1985, and not at my previous apartment at 10681 Hamilton Plaza, where it is stored in his memory bank, which has clearly had a run on it. And if Eeyore will now admit to this, perhaps, just perhaps, he will also concede that he just might be mis-remembering the direction of the HSL Trip van being piloted by **B**itter **T**rumper that fine June afternoon in 1992. And if not, so be it. We will allow Eeyore to continue living in his fantasy memory world, and make no further mention of it here. There will be no further beating of this Dead Mule by the author of *From the Bullpen*.[1]

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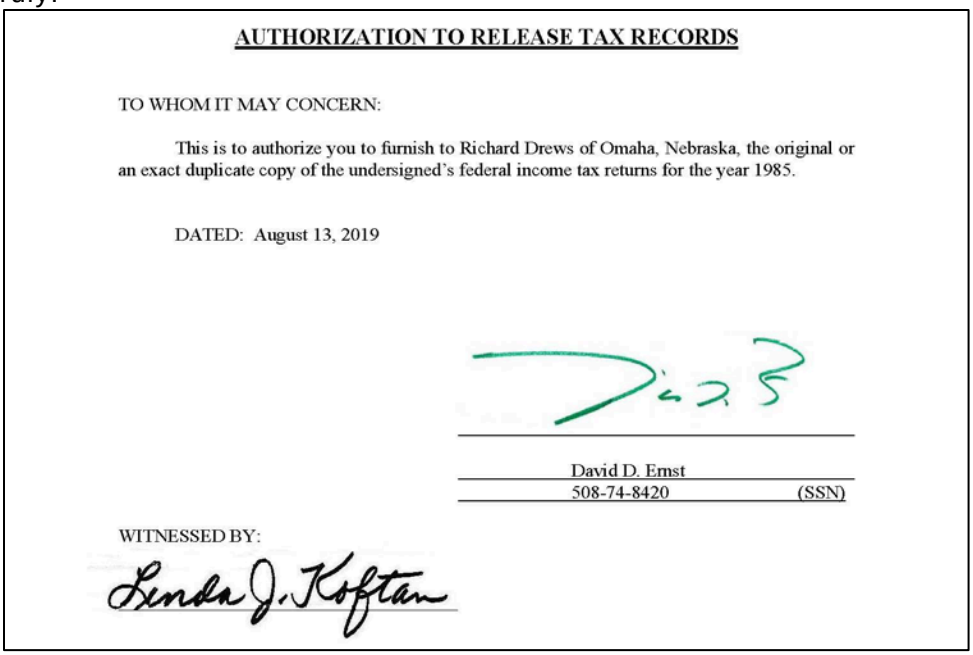
[1] And just in case Big Guy questions the legitimacy of the date on the tax return, I am providing him with a signed authorization on an approved government form to allow him to get a copy of the original tax return which I filed with Uncle Sam more than 34 years ago, and he can verify that there has been no manipulation of the date of signing of the return by yours truly.



AUTHORIZATION TO RELEASE TAX RECORDS

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This is to authorize you to furnish to Richard Drews of Omaha, Nebraska, the original or an exact duplicate copy of the undersigned's federal income tax returns for the year 1985.

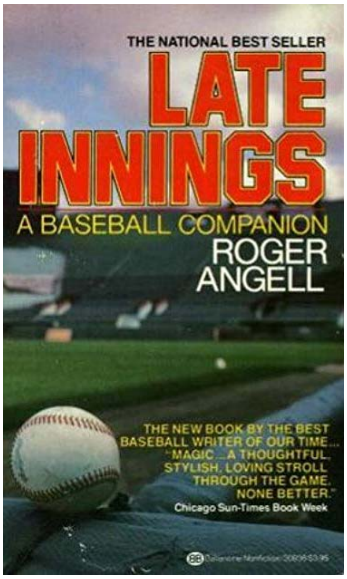
DATED: August 13, 2019

David D. Ernst
508-74-8420 (SSN)

WITNESSED BY:

Linda J. Koftan

BOOK REPORT:
LATE INNINGS: A Baseball Companion
By Roger Angell



I am just about finished reading yet another masterpiece by baseball's poet laureate, Roger Angell, entitled *Late Innings: A Baseball Companion*, copyright 1982. I had previously read most of his other baseball-centric books, including *The Summer Game* (1972), *Five Seasons* (1977), *Season Ticket* (1988), and *Let Me Finish* (2006); as well as his sentimental and at times heart-wrenching *This Old Man: All in Pieces* (2015).

Late Innings primarily covers spring training, regular season and playoff and World Series games attended by Angell between 1977 and 1981. His unparalleled descriptions of players and managers and baseball plays and baseball moments provides the reader as much pure pleasure as I can imagine having while reading a book. It is as if you are sitting next to Angell at the ballpark and watching the events and individuals that he so eloquently describes. His vocabulary is matchless, and he can turn a phrase as adroitly as a master woodworker turns a lathe.

While Angell's writing only infrequently invokes guffaws of laughter or contains knee-slapping hilarity, I find myself wearing more or less a constant smile as I pore over the pages. Since I doubt that most of you will have or take the time to read this book, allow me to share with you four excerpts which I find to be particularly graceful and entertaining:

YAZ POPS OUT

(The backdrop) In writing about the 1978 Major League season--in which the defending champion New York Yankees were a team in turmoil, with Billy Martin having been fired by Steinbrenner and Bob Lemon having been brought on board to try to right the ship--Angell recounts how his beloved Sox blew a seemingly impervious 14-game July lead over the Yankees, painfully dropping game after game after game as the Bronx Bombers came back together in resemblance of their 1977 championship season.

Many of you[2] remember that the 1978 season ended up in a tie (99 wins, 63 losses) between the Yankees and the Red Sox, and so they had to organize a one-game playoff to see who would face the Kansas City Royals in the American League Championship Series. The game was played on October 2, 1978, at Fenway "Pock," and the Yankees pitched their ace, Ron "Louisiana Lightning" Guidry, against their former teammate, Mike Torrez, now of the Red Sox staff.

In perhaps one of the tensest baseball games of all time--particularly for the long-suffering Red Sox--the Sox drew first blood when the great Carl Yastrzemski hit a home run off Guidry in the bottom of the 2nd. Following this, there were three frames in which neither team was able to push across a run, as Torrez settled into a groove against his former teammates. In the bottom of the 6th inning, the Red Sox faithful were cheered and relieved when Jim Rice hit a single to drive in Rick Burleson to pad their lead and give the Sox fans a bit of breathing room.

In the top of the 7th, with one man out, Chris Chambliss and Roy White both singled off Torrez, and pinch hitter Jim Spencer then flied out. With two aboard and two out, 9-hole hitter Bucky Dent strode to the plate and vilified himself to all of New England by hitting a 3-run blast off Torrez over the Green Monster, giving the Yankees a 3-2 lead.

After walking Mickey Rivers, Torrez was removed from the game and Bob "Steamer" Stanley came in to relieve. After Mickey Rivers stole second base, Thurman Munson drove him in with a double, increasing the Bombers' lead to 4-2. In the next inning, Reggie Jackson hit a home run off Stanley to increase the Yankee lead to 5-2, and all looked hopeless for Red Sox Nation.

In the bottom of the 8th inning, the Red Sox cut the Yankees' lead to 1 when Fred Lynn and the always clutch Carl Yastrzemski hit RBI singles off Yankee closer Goose Gossage.

After the Yankees went scoreless in the top of the 9th, the Red Sox were down 5 to 4 but had runners on 3rd and 1st with two outs when the great Yaz came up in another clutch moment. However, Yaz was unable to get the job done and the game was over when he popped out to Yankee third baseman Graig Nettles in foul territory.

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[2] I'm guessing Yankee lovers Screech and Mouse and Red Sox/Yankee hater PAwesome, together with our own Kreskin.

So that's what happened. Here's how Angell described it:

> Two out, and the tying run on third. Yastrzemski up. A whole season, thousands of innings, had gone into this tableau. My hands were trembling. The faces around me looked haggard. Gossage, the enormous pitcher, reared and threw a fastball: ball one. He flailed and fired again, and Yastrzemski swung and popped the ball into very short left-field foul ground, where Graig Nettles, backing up, made the easy out. It was over.
>
> Afterward, Yaz wept in the training room, away from the reporters. In the biggest ballgame of his life, he had homered and singled and had driven in two runs, but almost no one would remember that. He is thirty-nine years old, and he has never played on a world-championship team; it is the one remaining goal of his career. He emerged after a while, dry-eyed, and sat by his locker and answered our questions quietly. He looked old. He looked fifty.
>
> Later that week, many editorials and sports stories in the Boston papers explained that it was the fate of the Yankees to win always, and the fate of the Red Sox always to wait another year. Emily Vermeule, a professor of classics at Harvard, wrote in the *Globe*, "The hero must go under at last, after prodigious deeds, to be remembered and immortal and to have poets sing his tale." I understand that, and I will sing the tale of Yaz always, but I still don't quite see why it couldn't have been arranged for him to single to right center, or to double off the wall. I'd have sung *that*, too. I think God was shelling a peanut.

ON EXPANSION OF THE PLAYOFFS TO INCLUDE A WILD CARD TEAM

Off-the-field news was mercifully scarce this year. The club owners and the Players Association are bracing themselves for another round of baseball SALT talks next year, when the basic agreement between the two great powers comes up for renegotiation. The owners have hired a new and aggressive labor representative, and there is a growing conviction among them that

some form of serious recompense to owners who lose stars in the free-agent market must be written into the compact. In another area, which does not come under the basic agreement, several owners are pressing for a switch to an entirely new system of leagues and of post-season play after the 1979 season. This would entail the establishment of three geographical divisions within each league, and a playoff season that would stretch over several weeks, involving three regional winners in each league plus a "wild card" team. This package--the same kind of television-inspired scheduling that now interminably stretches out the professional basketball and hockey seasons and vitiates their ultimate championships--is being offered to the three networks as a device that would "heighten baseball fever."

The defects of this shabby scheme are too numerous and too evident to be examined in detail. Can it be that the owners have failed to notice that their game is booming, on a roll, with attendance rising each season and national interest deepening almost every day? This abundance, this green growth everywhere, springs from the natural resources of the sport--close competition, a sustained high quality of play, and some remarkable individual performances by the old and new stars of the game: all the feats and figures I have enumerated here. As every real fan knows, baseball's long, grueling schedule is ideally suited to the searching out of deserving pennant-winning clubs, for the multiple difficulties of the game will inexorably wear down lesser teams *in due course*--which is to say not before mid-September at the earliest and, very often, not before the last weekend of the season. This is fever enough, and it depresses (but no longer surprises) me to see how the proprietors of the pastime continue to ignore its evident truths. I don't know: maybe they don't go to the games.

AN OBNOXIOUS FAN AT SPRING TRAINING

I flew to Florida from Phoenix and drove to Lakeland for a night game between the visiting Red Sox and the Detroit Tigers--a sellout affair also observed

by about two dozen members of the enormous Boston press corps, which was getting itself ready for another summer of Euripidean despair. *Everything*, I was told at once, had gone wrong with the Bosox this spring, but it seemed to me that the Tigers had almost more to whimper about, for Mark Fidrych's damaged wing had not come around, and Rusty Staub, the best designated hitter in the league, had apparently retired after a long salary wrangle with the front office. The game was a brisk one, with almost everybody first-ball hitting, and the young Detroit lineup whacking Dennis Eckersley repeatedly and stealing bases like peanuts. The Tigers went ahead for good in the fourth on a two-run homer hit into the outer darkness by a large, left-handed rookie phenom named Kirk Gibson, who has begun a career in baseball in spite of many blandishments and cajoleries from the National Football League. It was his second hit of the spring season--both hits being two-run homers against the Red Sox. All this seemed sufficient entertainment for one evening, but we were given a double bill. Early in the game, a trombone-voiced Tiger fan took up a stance at the back of the grandstand, behind home plate and directly in front of the low press box, from where he commenced a nonstop, mind-bending baiting of the Red Sox batters. He reviews were strongminded but lacking in variety. When Jim Rice stood in at one point, the critic yelled, "Hey, Rice! Hey, *Rice!* You know what you are, Rice? You're a rice pudding, Rice, that's all you are! Hey, Rice! Why don't you send your accountant up to bat for you Rice? Send your account up to bat for you, you big rice pudding! Hey, Rice! *Rice!* You know what you are, Rice? . . ." Similarly inventive metaphors and suggestions were offered to each Boston batter in turn. There were cries for mercy from fans and scribes alike, but the man was adamant in the exercise of his rights and his tonsils. After four or five innings of this, a gentle Fenway transcendentalist seated just to my right in the first row of the press box arose, muttering, and then returned carrying a medium-sized beer cup filled with water. He balanced this with exquisite care on the lip of the press-box parapet, directly in front of me and perhaps eight inches above the scalp of the Lakeland Demosthenes, who had gone silent for the moment, while his Tigers were at bat. The inning ended, the teams

> changed sides, the Tiger pitcher warmed up, and the next Red Sox batter stepped up to the plate.
>
> "Hey, Scott" we heard. (It was indeed the Boomer.) "Hey, *Scott!* Hey--"
>
> Fatigued, my companion yawned and stretched, and by mischance the fingers of his left hand just nudged the paper cup. The ensuing roar of pleasure and gratitude from the stands in front of us far outdid the welcome previously given to Kirk Gibson's homer. Then there was a further and extremely cruel second burst of cheering, almost as loud as the first, when a responding, upward-bound refreshment--beer, this time, I discovered--suddenly drenched an innocent press-box bystander, or bysitter, recently off a plane from Phoenix.

ON THE INIMITABLE BILLY MARTIN

> But up on the dugout step Martin is someone else altogether. His intensity is unique. Under the cap, his face is pale and tight, and he looks almost ill with concentration and hostility. His eyes are cold, moving constantly about the field and across the dark inner ranges of stratagem and intuition, in search of the sudden edge, the flicker of advantage, that will win again. It is the face of a man in a street fight, a man up an alley when the knives have just come out. It is win or die.

Great, great stuff. Pure poetry.

* * * * * * * *

That is it for this issue, lads. Have a great week.

Skipper