

Bob Gibson and Stan Musial,
Spring Training 1961, Tampa Bay

NEBRASKA HOT STOVE LEAGUE

SEASON XXXVI



Angry no more.

FROM THE BULLPEN

2020 Campaign

Edition No. 16

August 7, 2020

Gentlemen:

It is indeed a pleasure and perhaps a bit of a surprise, to be able to provide you with Hot Stove League standings and players' statistics for the second week in a row. See below.

STANDINGS THRU WEEK 2 ENDING AUGUST 2, 2020

| | | | |
|----|------------------|-------|-------|
| 1 | Cubs | 703.6 | - |
| 2 | Wahoos | 673.3 | 30.3 |
| 3 | Bums | 630.5 | 73.1 |
| 4 | Senators | 618.5 | 85.1 |
| 5 | Tigers | 551.8 | 151.8 |
| 6 | Monarchs | 546.6 | 157.0 |
| 7 | Skipjacks | 542.8 | 160.8 |
| 8 | Saints | 540.9 | 162.7 |
| 9 | Redbirds | 515.2 | 188.4 |
| 10 | Bear Devils | 491.5 | 212.1 |
| 11 | The Moe Szyslaks | 473.7 | 229.9 |
| 12 | Bombers | 461.0 | 242.6 |
| 13 | Blues | 443.2 | 260.4 |

POINTS FOR WEEK 2 ENDING AUGUST 2, 2020

| | | |
|----|------------------|-------|
| 1 | Cubs | 491.7 |
| 2 | Wahoos | 457.8 |
| 3 | Bums | 415.7 |
| 4 | Skipjacks | 397.9 |
| 5 | Senators | 381.6 |
| 6 | Bear Devils | 348.6 |
| 7 | Bombers | 345.3 |
| 8 | Saints | 339.4 |
| 9 | Tigers | 324.2 |
| 10 | Redbirds | 322.2 |
| 11 | The Moe Szyslaks | 293.1 |
| 12 | Blues | 287.0 |
| 13 | Monarchs | 251.3 |

Concerning transactions, brother Shamu is living by that old adage that has served him so well at the Valentino's buffet near East Campus: *More is better.*

And now for your information and pleasure, the individual totals, good and bad, for pitching and hitting:

TOP 10 PITCHERS

| | | | |
|-----|----------------|------------------|------|
| 1. | Shane Bieber | Senators | 87.0 |
| 2. | Sonny Gray | Cubs | 73.0 |
| 3. | Tyler Chatwood | Skipjacks | 71.0 |
| 4. | Trevor Bauer | Monarchs | 71.0 |
| 5. | Lance Lynn | Tigers | 64.0 |
| 6. | Kyle Freeland | Skipjacks | 57.0 |
| 7. | Kenta Maeda | Bums | 55.0 |
| 8. | Gerrit Cole | Wahoos | 52.0 |
| 9. | Dylan Bundy | The Moe Szyslaks | 52.0 |
| 10. | Ross Stripling | The Moe Szyslaks | 49.0 |

WHO'S HOT -- PITCHERS

| | | | |
|-----|-------------------|-----------|------|
| 1. | Aaron Civale | Monarchs | 48.0 |
| 2. | Shane Bieber | Senators | 47.0 |
| 3. | Merrill Kelly | Senators | 47.0 |
| 4. | Jon Lester | Wahoos | 45.0 |
| 5. | Antonio Senzatela | Senators | 43.0 |
| 6. | Sonny Gray | Cubs | 40.0 |
| 7. | Chris Bassitt | Wahoos | 40.0 |
| 8. | Brandon Woodruff | Cubs | 40.0 |
| 9. | Tyler Chatwood | Skipjacks | 39.0 |
| 10. | Taijuan Walker | Skipjacks | 39.0 |

WHO'S NOT -- PITCHERS

| | | | |
|-----|---------------------------|------------------|-------|
| 1. | Luke Weaver | Bear Devils | -14.0 |
| 2. | Kyle Hendricks | Bums | -7.0 |
| 3. | Mike Minor | Tigers | -5.0 |
| 4. | Robbie Ray | Bear Devils | -5.0 |
| 5. | Hyun Jin Ryu | The Moe Szyslaks | -4.0 |
| 6. | Mike Clevinger | Monarchs | -4.0 |
| 7. | Carlos Rodón | The Moe Szyslaks | -4.0 |
| 8. | Mitch Keller 10-Day IL | Bear Devils | -3.0 |
| 9. | Joey Lucchesi | Skipjacks | -2.0 |
| 10. | Jeff Samardzija | Blues | -2.0 |

TOP 10 HITTERS

| | | | |
|-----|----------------------------|-------------|------|
| 1. | Aaron Judge | Bombers | 62.1 |
| 2. | Mike Yastrzemski | Senators | 58.6 |
| 3. | Nick Castellanos | Wahoos | 58.0 |
| 4. | Kyle Lewis | Cubs | 55.5 |
| 5. | Dansby Swanson | Blues | 55.0 |
| 6. | Fernando Tatis Jr. | Bear Devils | 54.1 |
| 7. | Trevor Story | Tigers | 51.5 |
| 8. | Corey Seager Day-to-Day | Senators | 51.1 |
| 10. | Donovan Solano | Wahoos | 50.8 |

WHO'S HOT -- HITTERS

| | | | |
|-----|--------------------|-------------|------|
| 1. | Aaron Judge | Bombers | 60.1 |
| 2. | Nick Castellanos | Wahoos | 50.0 |
| 3. | Mike Yastrzemski | Senators | 49.0 |
| 4. | Donovan Solano | Wahoos | 44.0 |
| 5. | Whit Merrifield | Redbirds | 42.7 |
| 6. | Xander Bogaerts | Skipjacks | 41.3 |
| 7. | Trent Grisham | Bear Devils | 41.0 |
| 8. | Fernando Tatis Jr. | Bear Devils | 40.6 |
| 9. | Mookie Betts | Bums | 40.1 |
| 10. | Corey Seager | Senators | 36.7 |

WHO'S NOT -- HITTERS

| | | | |
|-----|-------------------|------------------|------|
| 1. | Christian Yelich | Monarchs | -5.0 |
| 2. | Oscar Mercado | Skipjacks | -4.5 |
| 3. | Khris Davis | Monarchs | -4.5 |
| 4. | Kolten Wong | Bums | -3.6 |
| 5. | Paul DeJong | Wahoos | -3.4 |
| 6. | Byron Buxton | Blues | -2.0 |
| 7. | Roberto Pérez | Cubs | -2.0 |
| 8. | Danny Santana | The Moe Szyslaks | -2.0 |
| 9. | Howie Kendrick | Saints | -1.4 |
| 10. | Jackie Bradley Jr | The Moe Szyslaks | -1.0 |

ON THE ROAD AGAIN: DESTINATION: ANY COURTHOUSE

Just yesterday, with a trip to Sir Charles' old stomping grounds (Kearney) to meet with a client in the offing, I decided to decamp a couple hours early from Omaha so that I could make it to see a couple of county courthouses that I have not yet had the chance to visit.

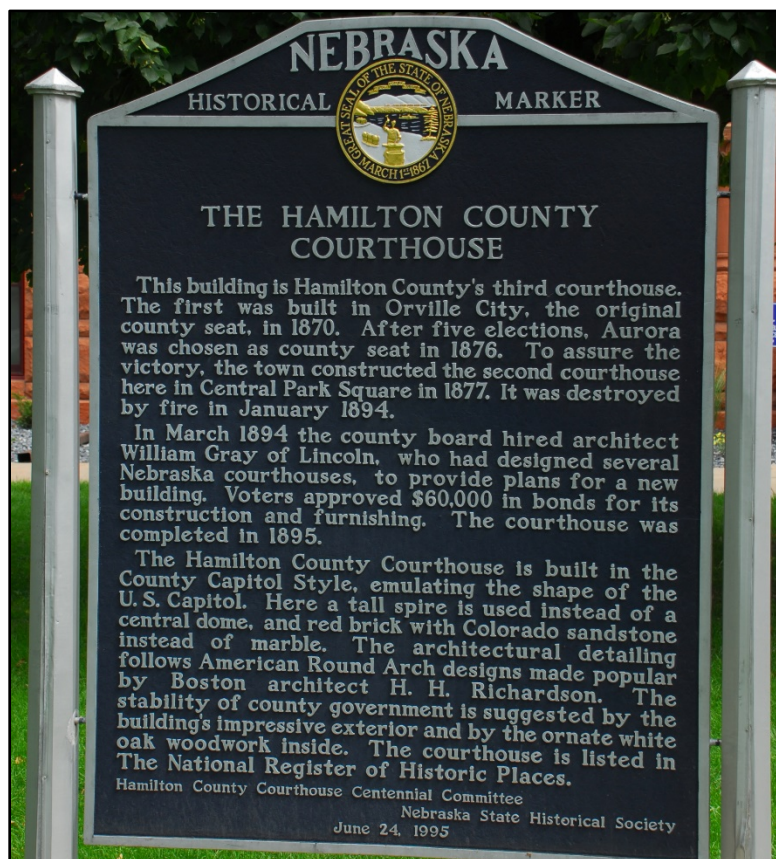
Hamilton County Courthouse
Aurora, Nebraska

First up was the Hamilton County Courthouse in Aurora, Nebraska, three miles north of Interstate 80, and it is a beaut, as seen below:





Hamilton County Courthouse, Aurora, NE





Inside the district courtroom. Very beautiful.



Erected in 1895 to replace the previous courthouse which had burned to the ground, this beautiful building, designed by a Lincoln architect, anchors the courthouse square of a beautiful and vibrant downtown Aurora. Lots of obvious civic pride in this community.

Clay County Courthouse
Clay Center, Nebraska



Clay County Courthouse



Next up on the *Tour de la Courts* was the Clay County Courthouse in Clay Center, Nebraska, 23 miles south of Interstate 80 from the same Highway 14 that took me to Aurora. My previous attempt to visit this courthouse was frustrated by COVID-19 about a month or so ago, and the repeat visit was worth the trek.

The Clay County Courthouse in Clay Center, Nebraska was built during 1917–19. It was designed by architect William F. Gernandt in Beaux Arts style, and is an “exceptionally fine” example of the ten Nebraska courthouses that he designed. It is also an “excellent” example of the County Citadel type of county courthouse.



This photo shows the texture of the bricks and the intricate work on the columns and balcony. Beautiful.

This courthouse is filled with lots of beautiful marble on the inside, and the courtroom itself is replete with beautiful woodwork. It is one of the most beautiful courtrooms I have ever been in, and unfortunately, it is doubtful that I will ever get to try a case in this remote outpost.



A very cool, very old safe on display in the courthouse.



These are all of the judges who have served in the Clay County Courthouse over the years.



The very cool inside of the district courtroom

Adams County Courthouse
Hastings, NE

My third courthouse visit was to Hastings and the Adams County Courthouse. Constructed in 1961 in a style that is difficult to describe, it appears that the architect was dropping acid when he came up with this futuristic design. Not a fan. Here it is:



Adams County Courthouse, Hastings, NE

The inside is bleaker than the exterior, from an aesthetic point of view. If I never try a case in Adams County District Court, I am good with that.

Kearney County Courthouse
Minden, NE



The Opera House, across the street from the courthouse.



Inscription: Memorial to the Veterans of the Civil and Spanish-American Wars, residents of the City of Minden and the County of Kearney, erected in 1913.
 On one side, "Gettysburg" and on the next side, "Monitor & Merrimac."
 Around the base of the statue are the names of all the men who fought and died from the United States, listed by the states of their residencies.

Next up on the Tour was the Kearney County Courthouse which, if you thought it was located in Kearney, Nebraska, you would be wrong. Instead, this lovely edifice is situated in nearby Minden, Nebraska, home of *Pioneer Village*, which, according to their billboard propaganda, has served up *six million satisfied customers since 1953*. Well, maybe so, but I can think of

at least a couple of unsatisfied customers¹ as we drove through its dreary confines many moons ago. As Chevy Chase and Jack Ernst both liked to say, *It's all part of the experience!*

Also, in the Ed McMahon quote, "I *did* not know that," category, Minden, Nebraska is known, according to their welcoming sign, as *The Christmas City*. Not sure how it achieved this moniker, but come to think of it, there were quite a few short little people with pointy caps wandering around the downtown area, so maybe that's it.

But I digress. The Kearney County Courthouse is quite beautiful. Constructed in 1906 and styled in the Classical Revival architecture genre, the courthouse anchors the downtown business area and is obviously the pride of the community. Because court was in session and there was a pitched battle going on inside, I did not enter the courtroom itself, but could see through the window that it is quite nicely constructed of some beautiful wood, and well preserved in the old style.

Merrick County Courthouse
Central City, NE



¹ Kathi and me.



The Merrick County Courthouse in Central City was the next stop on this Courthouse Appreciation Tour. Built from 1911 to 1913 and designed in the Classical Revival style by architect William F. Gernandt, it was built at a cost of \$100,000. This courthouse building is sort of set off by itself in or near a residential neighborhood, and it is not part of the traditional courthouse square. It is a traditionally pleasing courthouse from the outside, but on the inside they have converted the old original district courtroom into offices and storage, and built a courthouse annex that now houses the modernized, antiseptic district courtroom. Bad move, citizens of Central City, but then again, I realize that no one asked me for my input or opinion.

Final Stop: Osceola
Polk County Courthouse



The sixth and final stop on my courthouse tour brought me to Osceola, the county seat of Polk County. Picture if you will, the Polk County Courthouse is a picturesque and proud structure which sits up high and in the middle of the town square, and perhaps most importantly, just across the street from the Osceola Tavern. Many a victory beer has undoubtedly been ordered up and slurped down in those premises, as have no doubt many consolation cocktails been supped there. Since I have never before been in the Polk County Courthouse, I have tasted neither victory nor defeat in this hall of justice or in the Osceola Tavern.

Once inside, I was able to convince an affable clerk of the court to unlock the doors to the district courtroom and allow me a brief tour. She proudly pointed out that everything in this courtroom is original, and that it has been taken care of meticulously and with great loving care as it nears its 100th year anniversary. She even let me sit in Judge Rachel Dougherty's judicial throne, and proudly pointed out how the initials PC are carved into the chair, as may be seen below.



Osceola Tavern, whose patrons have heard cheers of victory
and seen tears of defeat.





DAY'S END

As I left Osceola bound for Omaha, I was a bit sad that my day of touring courthouses was over, but glad that I could share this Jurisprudential Jamboree with all of you.²

FRIDAY, MY DAY

As this issue of *From the Bullpen* goes to press, I am on my way to Lincoln for a few holes of golf with my dear and trusted Pershing Panther teammates, followed by a spirited and spirit-filled drive by our old neighborhoods in Northeast Lincoln, to share stories about our salad days and misspent youths.

Cheerio.

Skipper

² And gladder still that it was an 80% billable drive. But don't judge me.