



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. 17

September 4, 2020

RIP, TOM TERRIFIC



Brethren:

This edition of *From the Bullpen* will include bookend memorials. First, we glumly acknowledge the passing of **Tom Terrific**, the great Tom Seaver, No. 41, he of the 1969 Miracle Mets, who captured the imagination of New York City and all of America with their magical, miracle season, coming from ten games behind in August to seize the pennant, and then besting Earl Weaver's powerful Orioles in five games in the 1969 World Series.

It was with much sadness that I learned of Seaver's passing while sitting out on my back deck on Wednesday night watching the Dodgers and the Diamondbacks in a classic pitchers' duel. Tom Terrific personified all that is good and right about our national pastime. Hard-working, intelligent, good-looking, a good guy, and so damned good at what he did, a master of his craft. Not only did Seaver win 311 games in his 20-year career, he also struck out a total of 3,640 batters. He is the only major league pitcher ever to strike out ten consecutive hitters. On April 22, 1970, he tied the then-major league record by striking out 19 San Diego Padres in one game, including a record 10 strikeouts in a row to finish this Mona Lisa of the mound.

While Seaver's death may have come as no surprise--since his dementia was announced by his family more than a year ago--it nevertheless hurts. RIP, Tom Terrific. We barely knew ye, laddie.

CUBS ADD TO LEAD

Shamu's sizzling **Cubs** continue to lead the way in the Hot Stove League standings, through 6 weeks of play, including games of Sunday, August 30. Here are the full standings and weekly point totals for last week:

**STANDINGS THRU WEEK 6
ENDING AUGUST 30, 2020**

1	Cubs	2765.9	-
2	Bums	2554.4	211.5
3	Senators	2451.9	314.0
4	Bear Devils	2430.9	335.0
5	Wahoos	2423.8	342.1
6	Redbirds	2389.8	376.1
7	Saints	2248.9	517.0
8	Monarchs	2202.8	563.1
9	Skipjacks	2108.1	657.8
10	Tigers	2058.7	707.2
11	Bombers	2005.1	760.8
12	Blues	1850.2	915.7
13	The Moe Szyslaks	1834.7	931.2

**POINTS FOR WEEK 6
ENDING AUGUST 30, 2020**

1	Redbirds	531.4
2	Cubs	497.3
3	Saints	451.7
4	Monarchs	451.6
5	Skipjacks	432.9
6	Senators	412.2
7	Bums	411.5
8	Wahoos	408.5
9	Bear Devils	398.4
10	Tigers	383.3
	The Moe Szyslaks	383.3
12	Bombers	375.4
13	Blues	298.7

Here are the player point totals for the season and for last week:

TOP 10 PITCHERS

1.	Shane Bieber	Senators	248.0
2.	Lance Lynn	Tigers	210.0
3.	Yu Darvish	Monarchs	200.0
4.	Sonny Gray	Cubs	182.0
5.	Kenta Maeda	Bums	179.0
6.	Max Fried	Wahoos	172.0
7.	Lucas Giolito	Bear Devils	163.0
8.	Trevor Bauer	Monarchs	162.0
	Zac Gallen	Saints	162.0
10.	Dylan Bundy	The Moe Szyslaks	161.0

WHO'S HOT -- PITCHERS

1.	Lucas Giolito	Bear Devils	52.0
2.	Adam Wainwright	Redbirds	49.0
3.	Lance Lynn	Tigers	40.0
	Jack Flaherty	Saints	40.0
5.	Kenta Maeda	Bums	39.0
6.	Andrew Heaney	Wahoos	38.0
7.	Tyler Glasnow	The Moe Szyslaks	37.0
	Corbin Burnes	Bums	37.0
9.	Jacob deGrom	Saints	36.0
	Zach Eflin	Monarchs	36.0

WHO'S NOT -- PITCHERS

1.	Garrett Richards	Saints	-18.0
2.	Daniel Ponce de Leon	Bombers	-14.0
3.	Randy Dobnak	Blues	-13.0
	Brandon Bielak	Bums	-13.0
5.	Sandy Alcantara	Cubs	-9.0
	Martin Pérez	Blues	-9.0
7.	Trevor Williams	Skipjacks	-8.0
8.	Chris Bassitt	Wahoos	-7.0
	Alex Cobb	Bombers	-7.0
10.	Adrian Houser	Skipjacks	-5.0
	Brad Keller	Saints	-5.0
	Frankie Montas	Redbirds	-5.0
	Derek Holland	Tigers	-5.0

TOP 10 HITTERS

1.	Fernando Tatis Jr.	Bear Devils	211.5
2.	Manny Machado	Bear Devils	184.0
3.	Nelson Cruz	Monarchs	171.0
4.	Mookie Betts	Bums	169.6
5.	Trevor Story	Tigers	169.0
6.	Mike Yastrzemski	Senators	168.6
7.	Mike Trout	Bear Devils	162.0
8.	José Abreu	Cubs	161.6
9.	Kyle Lewis	Cubs	159.5
10.	Brandon Lowe	Wahoos	159.0

WHO'S HOT -- HITTERS

1.	Manny Machado	Bear Devils	53.9
2.	Trea Turner	Bombers	43.7
3.	Jesse Winker	Bums	43.0
	Kyle Tucker	Redbirds	43.0
5.	Randal Grichuk	Cubs	41.5
6.	Brandon Belt	Bear Devils	40.5
7.	Christian Walker	Redbirds	39.4
8.	Andrew McCutchen	Skipjacks	39.0
9.	Vladimir Guerrero Jr.	The Moe Szyslaks	38.9
10.	Mike Trout	Bear Devils	38.5

WHO'S NOT -- HITTERS

1.	Joey Bart	Saints	-5.4
2.	Sean Murphy	Bear Devils	-5.3
3.	Kiké Hernández	Blues	-3.6
4.	Bryan Reynolds	Tigers	-3.0
5.	Rio Ruiz	Bombers	-2.5
6.	Khris Davis	Monarchs	-1.5
7.	Gregory Polanco	Bear Devils	-1.0
8.	Alec Bohm	Skipjacks	-0.4

SKIP SEZ

- The pick of the Draft so far has got to be Manny Machado of the **Bear Devils**, who was snapped up in the 4th round by Denny; followed closely by Nelson Cruz of the **Monarchs**, who was adroitly selected by the **Monarchs** in the same round. However, while modesty prevents me from tooting my own horn, others might say that the **Senators'**

pick of Mike Yastrzemski in Round 19 was a stroke of genius, since Carl's grandson is now the sixth highest-ranked hitter. And let's also not forget that the **Senators** drafted ninth-best hitter Kyle Lewis in the 29th round, but then impatiently cut him loose during the first week of play before he was picked up by Shamu in the free agent draft. Curses.

- Over on the pitching side of the equation, it appears that the biggest steal of the Draft was Big Guy picking up Lance Lynn (No. 2 overall) in the 10th round, followed by Shamu picking up Sonny Gray in the 9th, Tricko picking up Kenta Maeda in the 9th, and the Bombastic Teuton grabbing Zac Gullen in the 12th; and let's not forget about Underbelly slyly picking up Dylan Bundy in Round 18.
- Who are the biggest disappointments so far? Take your pick. Of the 13 players taken in the first round of the draft, only Mookie Betts (No. 4 hitter) and Mike Trout (No. 7 hitter) are in the top 10 lists of pitchers or hitters.

THIS 'N' THAT

- I have almost finished reading a book about the 1918 pandemic, the so-called Spanish Flu, which allegedly was rooted in western Kansas. More on that book in a future edition of *FTB*. But while thinking about it, did you know that because of that pandemic and because of World War I, the 1918 major league season was shortened by about a month? I don't remember ever hearing that or reading about that before. The regular season that year ended on September 1, 1918, followed by the World Series matchup between the Boston Red Sox and the Chicago Cubs. The Beantown nine of course won that World Series over the Cubs, with the help of a young stud pitcher by the name of George Herman Ruth, who pitched a shutout in game 1 of the Fall Classic--played at Comiskey Park--and then picked up another win for the BoSox in Game 4 at Fenway Park. It was not until the next season that the Bambino focused on hitting and shattered the major league home run record with 29. And of course his reward for that was being traded by Red Sox owner Harry Frazee to the New York AL club, where Ruth became the greatest star the game has ever known.
- Has anyone seen the ESPN special on Bob Uecker, narrated by Bob Costas, which includes his acceptance speech at Cooperstown when he was inducted into the Hall of Fame as a broadcaster? If you haven't, you should YouTube it. The piece includes humorous pans around the crowd which show many of the game's greatest players laughing to the point of tears. In terms of deadpan delivery, Uecker is the baseball version of Leslie Nielsen. Watch it.

IN MEMORIAM

We conclude this issue of *From the Bullpen* on a sad but necessary note, with a tribute to Deb Blongewicz. To those of you who were not able to make it to her funeral service in Leawood, I am including hereinbelow the information about her and the picture of her from the memorial service bulletin.

Do not stand at my grave and weep;
I am not there. I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds that blow.
I am the diamond glints on snow.
I am the sunlight on ripened grain.
I am the gentle autumn's rain.
When you awaken in the morning's hush
I am the swift uplifting rush of quiet birds in circled flight.
I am the soft stars that shine at night.
Do not stand at my grave and cry:
I am not there. I did not die.



In Memory of Debora Kay Blongewicz
March 10, 1966 – August 14, 2020



Funeral Service
10:00 a.m., Thursday, August 20, 2020
Church of the Nativity
Leawood, Kansas

Officiant
Father Michael Hawken

Debora K. (Pike) Blongewicz, age 54, born and raised in Kansas City, Kansas, who resided in Overland Park, Kansas during her adult life, passed away August 14, 2020.

Deb was a Senior Clinical Research Manager for Phillips Corporation, a profession that she loved, and she took great pride in her career.

Deb was a 1984 graduate of Bishop Ward High School and obtained her Bachelor of Science Degree from Ottawa University in Healthcare Administration. Deb began her career in the medical field as a Radiology Technician and then as an Interventional Cardiovascular Technician. She took great pride in obtaining a scholarship to Bishop Ward; excelling in her studies and in her vocal performances; and working multiple jobs (nights and weekends) to pay for her college studies.

The world is a lesser place for no longer having Deb, but we are blessed with many incredible memories of her beauty, intelligence, and kindness. She was a lover of family, animals (especially Fiona the Hippo); music, home-grown tomatoes, pasta, the mountains and especially the sea, where she had some of her favorite adventures as an avid scuba diver. She found peace in the ocean and we hope she is now at peace for all time. A celebration of her life will take place at a future date.

Deb is survived by her husband Jon A. Blongewicz; step-children Danielle (Ivory) Dillard; and A.J. (Maddi) Blongewicz; granddaughter Aubrey Dillard; mother-in-law Karma Blongewicz; brothers-in-law Mark (Lynn) Blongewicz and Michael (Joy) Blongewicz; and her beloved and spoiled dog, Arya; her parents Robert and Trudy Pike; siblings Cindy Pike, wife of Greg Pike who predeceased; Rob (Gwenn) Pike; Susie (Ray) Humphrey; Cindy (Scott) Lynn; Pam (Dave) Rutherford; and nieces and nephews Zach (Alicia) Pike; Nick (Mary) Pike; Ashley Pike; Rachel Pike; Ian Humphrey; Justin Lynn; Brad Lynn; D.J. Lynn; Patrick (Amanda) Rutherford; Samantha Rutherford; Nicole Rutherford; Traci (Aaron) Kanne; and Kelsey Blongewicz.

She was preceded in death by her revered brother Greg Pike.

She was so greatly loved and will be missed by all. Even in her death, she helped others by being an organ donor.

In lieu of flowers, we encourage donations to either Bishop Ward High School, Kansas City, Kansas, or Deb's Save the Ocean Fund at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, 9500 Gilman Drive, #0940, La Jolla, CA 92093-0940.

Mass of Christian Burial for Debora Kay Blongewicz

Opening/Processional Hymn Be Not Afraid
First Reading Lamentations 3:17-26
Read by Justin Lynn
Responsorial Psalm Psalm 23 (Shepherd Me, O God)
Second Reading Letter of Paul to the Romans 8:31-39
Read by Brad Lynn
Gospel Acclamation Celtic Alleluia
Gospel Reading John 11: 17-27

Homily
Given by Father Michael Hawken

Prayers of the Faithful
Presented by Danielle Dillard, Ashley Pike and Rachel Pike

Communion You Are Mine
Meditation Ave Maria

Words of Remembrance
Given by Jon A. Blongewicz

Final Commendation May the Angels Be Your Guide
Closing/Recessional Hymn On Eagle's Wings

*Cantor – Courtney Raupp
Organist – Vicky Neely*

The world is now indeed a lesser place without Deb. She was a warm and wonderful, caring and compassionate mate, daughter, sister, stepmother, aunt and friend. May her soul be at eternal rest and peace.

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In closing this issue of *FTB*, to our brother Jon, and to all the HSL brotherhood, we wish for you and your families a safe and peaceful Labor Day weekend.

Skipper