

# NEBRASKA HOT STOVE LEAGUE

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SEASON XXXVII



2020 HSL Champion  
West Des Moines Cubs  
Manager: Shamu

400

## FROM THE BULLPEN

2021 Campaign

Edition No. 12

June 18 2021

### BOMBERS BREECH GLASS CEILING

#### WHININ' WAHOOS WIN WEEK

Brethren:

The stunning news from Week 10 of Year XXXVII of the Hot Stove League is that our long-suffering Brother Mouse has finally crashed through the glass ceiling, as his red-hot **Bombers** momentarily surpassed the league-leading **Bums** and were in sole occupation of 1st place on Friday, June 11, and Saturday, June 12. After this brief brush with immortality, however, the **Bombers** took last Sunday off<sup>1</sup> and allowed Magpie's collection of heathen mercenaries to reclaim the top spot in the standings. But ahhhhh, what a glorious two days they were, eh, Mouse?

While the **Bombers** cooled off from their previous white-hot pace of 600+ points a week to a more down-to-earth total of 398.5 points, the **Whinin' Wahoos** led all teams in Week 10 with a total of 547.5 points--hopefully bringing a screeching stop to PAwesome's repeated and sundry claims of injustice and misfortune beleaguering his team, all of which have fallen upon 24 deaf ears.

The second best total of Week 10 was posted by the **Redbirds** with 503.9, followed by the **Saints** with 458.1 points. At the other end of the spectrum, the **Senators** dragged bottom with 322.0 points, just below the **Tigers'** meager total of 323.1 points.

The full standings and Week 10 point totals are posted below.

<sup>1</sup> It is, after all, a "day of rest."

**HSL STANDINGS THRU WEEK 10  
ENDING JUNE 13, 2021**

Rank	Team	Points	Pts Back
1	Bums	5192.8	-
2	Bombers	5133.5	59.3
3	Saints	4947.7	245.1
4	Cubs	4754.8	438.0
5	Skipjacks	4750.7	442.1
6	Redbirds	4728.1	464.7
7	Wahoos	4656.4	536.4
8	Tribe	4647.6	545.2
9	Tigers	4513.8	679.0
10	Bears	4455.0	737.8
11	Monarchs	4367.6	825.2
12	Senators	4320.2	872.6
13	Blues	4128.1	1064.7

**POINT TOTALS FOR WEEK 10**

Rank	Team	
1	Wahoos	547.5
2	Redbirds	503.9
3	Saints	458.1
3	Tribe	450.4
4	Bums	433.8
5	Cubs	425.4
7	Monarchs	415.0
8	Bombers	398.5
9	Skipjacks	372.2
10	Blues	366.1
11	Bears	352.6
12	Tigers	323.1
13	Senators	322.0

**INDIVIDUAL STATS**

The Top 25 Hitter and Pitcher lists and the *Who's Hot and Who's Not* lists are shown below for your viewing pleasure.

### TOP 25 PITCHERS

1.	Kevin Gausman	Saints	364.0
2.	Brandon Woodruff	Redbirds	360.0
3.	Gerrit Cole	Bums	350.0
4.	Zack Wheeler	Wahoos	343.0
5.	Jacob deGrom	Wahoos	338.0
6.	Tyler Glasnow	Bears	336.0
7.	Trevor Bauer	Tribe	335.0
8.	Shane Bieber	Bombers	330.0
9.	Walker Buehler	Skipjacks	321.0
10.	Max Scherzer	Tigers	313.0
11.	Yu Darvish	Blues	309.0
12.	Chris Bassitt	Tribe	297.0
13.	Trevor Rogers	Bums	296.0
14.	Freddy Peralta	Senators	295.0
15.	Clayton Kershaw	Senators	294.0
16.	Carlos Rodón	Bums	292.0
17.	Aaron Civale	Monarchs	289.0
18.	Julio Urías	Tigers	287.0
19.	Lance Lynn	Bums	279.0
20.	Kyle Gibson	Monarchs	264.0
21.	Marcus Stroman	Bombers	263.0
	Corbin Burnes	Redbirds	263.0
23.	John Means	Cubs	262.0
24.	Joe Musgrove	Bums	260.0
25.	Sandy Alcantara	Wahoos	259.0

### WHO'S HOT - PITCHING

1.	Zach Davies	Redbirds	67.0
2.	Walker Buehler	Skipjacks	61.0
	Framber Valdez	Tribe	61.0
4.	Robbie Ray	Tribe	60.0
5.	Carlos Rodón	Bums	53.0
6.	Chris Bassitt	Tribe	49.0
7.	Aaron Nola	Tribe	48.0
8.	Aaron Civale	Monarchs	46.0
	Anthony DeSclafani	Bombers	46.0
10.	Joe Ross	Wahoos	41.0
11.	Jacob deGrom	Wahoos	40.0
12.	Zack Wheeler	Wahoos	39.0
13.	Tyler Glasnow	Bears	36.0
	Mike Minor	Tigers	36.0
	Clayton Kershaw	Senators	36.0
16.	Taijuan Walker	Tribe	35.0
17.	Adam Wainwright	Monarchs	33.0
	Trevor Rogers	Bums	33.0
19.	James Kaprielian	Bears	32.0
	José Berríos	Blues	32.0
	Ryan Yarbrough	Redbirds	32.0
	Logan Gilbert	Saints	32.0
23.	Collin McHugh	Bums	31.5
24.	Lance Lynn	Bums	31.0
	Marcus Stroman	Bombers	31.0

### WHO'S NOT - PITCHING

1.	Martín Pérez	Blues	-30.0
2.	José Ureña	Senators	-19.0
3.	Germán Márquez	Tigers	-13.0
4.	Domingo Germán	Bears	-12.0
	John Gant	Wahoos	-12.0
6.	Justin Dunn	Bears	-11.0
	Jameson Taillon	Monarchs	-11.0
8.	Chad Kuhl	Senators	-10.0
9.	Chi Chi González	Tigers	-9.0
	Kris Bubic	Blues	-9.0
11.	Adbert Alzolay	Bombers	-7.0
	David Peterson	Cubs	-7.0
13.	Johnny Cueto	Cubs	-5.0
	Jesús Luzardo	Bombers	-5.0
15.	Nathan Eovaldi	Bombers	-4.0
	Brad Keller	Monarchs	-4.0
	Alex Cobb	Senators	-4.0
18.	Charlie Morton	Cubs	-3.0
	Zack Greinke	Senators	-3.0
20.	Dane Dunning	Skipjacks	-2.0
	Marco Gonzales	Senators	-2.0
	Triston McKenzie	Tribe	-2.0
	Justus Sheffield	Monarchs	-2.0

### TOP 25 HITTERS

1.	Vladimir Guerrero Jr.	Blues	348.2
2.	Ronald Acuña Jr.	Senators	291.3
3.	Jesse Winker	Bums	290.7
4.	Nick Castellanos	Cubs	284.4
5.	Marcus Semien	Monarchs	276.1
6.	Matt Olson	Monarchs	268.7
7.	Xander Bogaerts	Senators	263.4
8.	Shohei Ohtani (Batter)	Skipjacks	263.2
9.	Bo Bichette	Skipjacks	257.9
10.	J.D. Martinez	Blues	253.7
11.	Rafael Devers	Saints	251.3
12.	Carlos Correa	Bombers	250.4
13.	Max Muncy	Wahoos	250.2
14.	Kris Bryant	Tigers	249.2
15.	Fernando Tatis Jr.	Bears	249.1
16.	Mark Canha	Bums	247.7
17.	Yuli Gurriel	Bombers	245.1
18.	Jared Walsh	Senators	242.7
19.	José Ramírez	Cubs	241.8
20.	Aaron Judge	Bombers	240.3
21.	Austin Meadows	Redbirds	237.7
22.	Cedric Mullins	Bums	236.8
23.	Adam Frazier	Tribe	235.3
24.	Justin Turner	Wahoos	234.4
25.	Ozzie Albies	Senators	233.7

### WHO'S HOT - HITTING

1.	Starling Marte	Bombers	51.8
2.	Vladimir Guerrero Jr.	Blues	47.1
3.	Bo Bichette	Skipjacks	44.1
4.	Matt Olson	Monarchs	39.8
5.	Michael Brantley	Redbirds	39.5
	Yordan Alvarez	Tribe	39.5
7.	Jazz Chisholm Jr.	Bombers	36.8
8.	Matt Chapman	Monarchs	36.0
	Justin Turner	Wahoos	36.0
10.	Jean Segura	Tigers	35.5
11.	Pete Alonso	Skipjacks	35.1
12.	Robbie Grossman	Wahoos	35.0
13.	Nick Castellanos	Cubs	34.5
14.	Daniel Vogelbach	Cubs	33.7
15.	Nelson Cruz	Cubs	33.5
16.	Kyle Tucker	Redbirds	33.0
17.	Justin Upton	Redbirds	32.5
18.	Shohei Ohtani (Batter)	Skipjacks	32.0
19.	Carlos Correa	Bombers	31.6
20.	Tommy Pham	Blues	31.5
21.	Xander Bogaerts	Senators	31.1
22.	Giancarlo Stanton	Saints	31.0
	Joc Pederson	Wahoos	31.0
24.	Ronald Acuña Jr.	Senators	30.0
25.	Salvador Perez	Cubs	29.8

### WHO'S NOT - HITTING

1.	Dominic Smith	Bombers	-6.0
2.	Joshua Fuentes	Tribe	-4.3
3.	Rhys Hoskins	Bears	-3.8
4.	Austin Hays	Bums	-3.4
5.	Trent Grisham	Cubs	-1.0
6.	Garrett Cooper	Bums	-0.5
	Alex Dickerson	Bums	-0.5

### SKIP SEZ



The '**Aints**' one-man pitching staff, Kevin Gausman, continues to lead all hurlers with 364.0 points. When do the wheels come off of this Clown Car?



The league-leading **Bums** have four pitchers in the Top 25 with Gerrit Cole, Trevor Rogers, Carlos Rodón and Lance Lynn, proving once again, it's all about pitching.



The hottest pitcher of the week was Zack Davies of the **Redbirds** with 67.0 points, one of the **Senators'** original draftees who got ash-canned after being lit up like a Christmas tree three or four starts in a row.



SloPay has once again pulled out a complete no-namer, this time James Kaprielian, who scored 32 points for the week to make the *Who's Hot* pitching list.



On the other side of the ledger, the minus 19 posted by the **Senators'** José Ureña was bested (worsted?) only by the **Blues'** Martín Pérez, who marched Stretch's squad back to the tune of 30 points for the week. Now *that* hurts. You are the one who should be doing the whining, Jon.



Vladdy the Impaler continues to be the top hitter with 348.2 points for the last-place **Blues**, putting a little space between him and the second-best Ronald Acuña Jr. of the **Senators**.



With the **Senators** having four of the Top 25 hitters (Acuña Jr., Bogaerts, Walsh and Albies) it is unimaginable that this team is in 12th place. Just plain bad luck, I'm telling ya.



The hot hitter for the week was the **Bombers'** Starling Marte with 61.8 points, but look who showed up in the #7 spot, some cat named Jazz Chisholm Jr., also of the **Bombers**. Nice pickup, Mouse. Does he dance over at your favorite retreat<sup>2</sup> in the Bluffs during the offseason?

### IN PRAISE OF CENTENNIAL FIELD

During a junket last week to Vermont for a deposition, I had a chance to pay a visit to historic Centennial Field, on the campus of the University of Vermont, home of the Vermont Lake Monsters. On that particular evening, the Lake Monsters were taking on the visiting New Britain Bees. On an absolutely weather-perfect evening, I joined in with a small but enthusiastic crowd in watching a delightful pitching duel which resulted in a 2-1 victory for the Lake Monsters. The only damper on the evening was that they ran out--that's right, *completely out*--of beer by the 7th inning. Talk about your high crimes and misdemeanors. Apparently the concessionaires at Centennial Field underestimated the collective thirsts that have built up during the pandemic and failed to order up enough kegs.

Two observations from my trip to Centennial Field: First, before the game started, several players on both teams warmed up by tossing a football back and forth on the field, something I have never before seen at a baseball game; and second, there is little to no variety in the antics and tomfoolery engaged in by minor league mascots. The Lake Monster mascot<sup>3</sup> was certainly energetic and likeable enough, but beyond a reasonable doubt I have seen each and every one of his/her madcap antics, schemes and misadventures many, many times before. They must all be googling the same "Mascot Maneuvers and Monkeyshines" webpage for ideas.

<sup>2</sup> Lipsticks and Dipsticks.

<sup>3</sup> Champ.





Champ Works the Crowd into a Lather



Me and Champ: Fast Friends

# MAJOR LEAGUE MONSTERS

## 1994

GEORGE FLORES  
TRACE ECKHART  
JACOBY HUBBARD  
SCOTT FOSTER  
MARK THOMPSON  
1994-95  
1995-00  
2000-03  
2000  
1997-03

## 1995

MICHAEL BARRETT  
ORLANDO CABELLA  
JOE FERNANDEZ  
JOE MACIAS  
TROY MATTHEWS  
JEREMY POWELL  
J.D. SMART  
1994-95  
1997-01  
1999-05  
2000  
1999-00  
1999-00  
1999-00

## 1996

JAMES CANNOL  
YOUNGMY LARA  
CHRISTIAN PIERCE  
SHAWN PERRY  
CHRIS STOWERS  
ANDY TRACY  
TAY YOUNG  
1996-97  
1999-00  
2000-03  
2000  
1999-00  
1999-00  
1999-00

## 1997

MATT BLANK  
MIGUEL BARRETT  
TOMAS DE LA RECHA  
HENRY KNOX  
DAVID KNOX  
CARL SAGLEN  
SCOTT STRICKLAND  
2000-01  
2000-01  
2000-06  
2000-06  
2000-06  
2002-03  
1999-00

## 1998

KEVIN FIELD  
KIPKE JULIO  
IAN SERRANO  
L.J. TUCKER  
2000-07  
2000-09  
2000-05  
2000-05

## 1999

MATT CROTTY  
PAUL PASQUINO  
MATT VANDER  
2000-06  
2000-10  
2000-10

## 2000

JACOBY HUBBARD  
JANUARY FERRER  
NOLAN PUEBLE  
QUANTON WATSON  
2000-03  
2000-03  
2000-04  
1999-00

## 2001

CHARLIE HITE  
SCOTT HILL  
JOHN KANARAKIS  
CHRIS SCHUBERT  
2004-05  
2004-12  
2004  
2004-08

## 2002

JACOBY HUBBARD  
NATE HANLEY  
MIKE O'CONNOR  
DAVID P. SCHUBERT  
2000-01  
2000-01  
2000-01  
2002-06

## 2003

KERRY DOUGLAS  
ROBERTO ROMERO  
JOHN WATTS  
2002-08  
2000-06  
2000-05

## 2004

BRIAN CAMPBELL  
IAN HESLOUGH (GCL)  
IAN HESLOUGH  
LIONEL WINTZ  
2000-06  
2000-10  
2002-08  
2000-13

## 2005

RANCHO ESTRELLA (GAK)  
ALICE HANNA  
CASSIUS SHERMAN (GSL)  
2005-06  
2005-14  
2005-06

## 2006

MICHAEL WATKINS  
JASON WATKINS  
DAVID WATKINS  
2007-07  
2007-15  
2006-12

## 2007

RYAN HANSEN  
CORY HANSEN  
JASON HANSEN  
JASON HANSEN (GSL)  
2007-08  
2007-10  
2007-10  
2007-09

## 2008

RYAN HANSEN  
RYAN HANSEN (GSL)  
RYAN HANSEN  
RYAN HANSEN  
RYAN HANSEN  
2008-12  
2008-12  
2008-12  
2008-12  
2008-12

## 2009

RYAN HANSEN  
RYAN HANSEN  
RYAN HANSEN  
RYAN HANSEN  
RYAN HANSEN  
2009-12  
2009-12  
2009-12  
2009-12  
2009-12

## 2010

APRIL BARRETT  
ALICE HANNA  
CASSIUS SHERMAN (GSL)  
2010-11  
2010-11  
2010-11

## 2011

RYAN HANSEN  
RYAN HANSEN  
RYAN HANSEN  
RYAN HANSEN  
2011-12  
2011-12  
2011-12  
2011-12

## 2012

RYAN HANSEN  
RYAN HANSEN  
RYAN HANSEN  
RYAN HANSEN  
2012-13  
2012-13  
2012-13  
2012-13

## 2013

RYAN HANSEN  
RYAN HANSEN  
RYAN HANSEN  
RYAN HANSEN  
2013-14  
2013-14  
2013-14  
2013-14

## 2014

RYAN HANSEN  
RYAN HANSEN  
RYAN HANSEN  
RYAN HANSEN  
2014-15  
2014-15  
2014-15  
2014-15

## 2014

APRIL BARRETT  
ALICE HANNA  
CASSIUS SHERMAN (GSL)  
2014-15  
2014-15  
2014-15

## 2015

RYAN HANSEN  
RYAN HANSEN  
RYAN HANSEN  
RYAN HANSEN  
2015-16  
2015-16  
2015-16  
2015-16

## 2016

RYAN HANSEN  
RYAN HANSEN  
RYAN HANSEN  
RYAN HANSEN  
2016-17  
2016-17  
2016-17  
2016-17

## 2017

RYAN HANSEN  
RYAN HANSEN  
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RYAN HANSEN  
2017-18  
2017-18  
2017-18  
2017-18

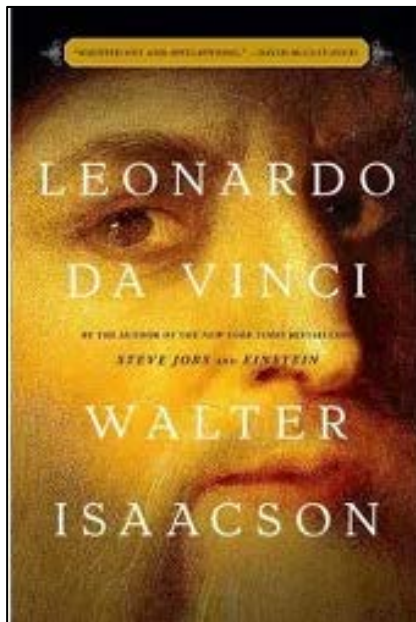
Players in Blue: Previously in MLB  
Players in Green: Active MLB in 2020  
Updated as of May 14, 2021





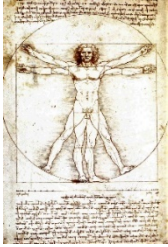
Centennial Field

### RENAISSANCE MAN: LEONARDO DA VINCI

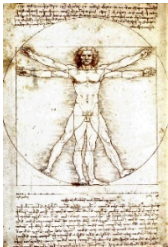


I am just now finishing up a book that is a very different kind of read for me, *Leonardo Da Vinci*, by Walter Isaacson. This would not normally be a book title that I would see at the book store and even think about picking up, but when I saw the name of the author, who has written several other excellent biographies that I have read, I decided that it was worth a shot. It was a good call.

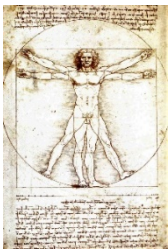
Prior to opening the book, I knew almost nothing about this amazing man who lived from the year 1452 to 1519, mostly in Florence and Milan, Italy. I knew that he painted the *Mona Lisa*, as well as *The Last Supper*, and that he was known to be brilliant and a man of many different talents, but that was essentially it. A few of the remarkable things that I learned about him are as follows:



Da Vinci was born out of wedlock and was hence a bastard child, mostly raised by his mother and stepmother. However, he had a relationship with his natural father for many years which was both cordial and mutual, but his father never took the steps that he could have taken to have Leonardo "legitimized" in the eyes of the church and the community.



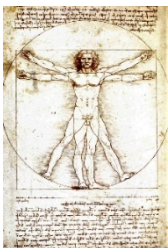
Leonardo was an openly gay man, who flouted his sexuality and never tried to cover it up or hide from it, even at the risk of prosecution for performing illegal acts.



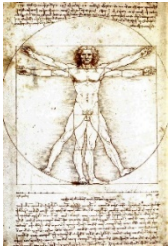
Da Vinci was as intellectually curious as they come, always wanting to know what made things tick, and was always exploring "why" something was the way that it was. He spent an enormous amount of gray matter trying to understand what makes the sky blue. Literally.



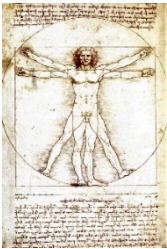
With almost no formal education, Da Vinci was self-taught, primarily through analysis and experimentation. Throughout his whole life he believed that learning through doing was better than learning through reading about it. Although he eventually obtained an impressive library and read much on many subjects, his first inclination was always to think about something, experiment by taking something apart or putting something together, and learning through his own scientific process.



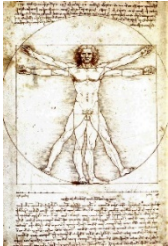
Da Vinci fashioned himself as a hydraulic engineer, designing and drawing up new systems for canals and waterways and sewer systems and aqueducts, most of which were never acted upon, but were recognized years later to be genius and far ahead of his time.



Da Vinci was fascinated by birds, and studied them for hours on end, trying to understand what it was about their wings and their bodies that gave them the power of flight. Based upon the knowledge that he gained from his study of birds, he designed several of his own flying machines and a helicopter, but none of them were ever used in a serious attempt at man-powered flights.



Da Vinci was a rival of Michelangelo, who was about 25 years younger than Da Vinci, but who considered himself Da Vinci's equal or superior, and who was not interested in collaborating with Da Vinci. Michelangelo was known as a loner, while Da Vinci had an abundance of friends among his fellow artists and courtesans.



For all his intellectual brilliance, he had one major flaw--he couldn't tie a ribbon on nearly anything. He left behind an astonishing number of unfinished paintings, treatises, inventions and projects, always anxious that he was to get on to the next great thing. But in every sense of the word, he was a Renaissance man. A good read.

\* \* \* \* \*



Proud Pappy Parties at Petco Park

## SKIP'S PIX 'N' PANZ - Part 4

### BLUES

Overview: With Bellinger, Vladdy Jr. and Jorge Soler, this team has a lot of potential pop in the lineup. With Darvish, Berríos and Blake Snell, they have a decent front end of their rotation. The problem with this team is that it is thin, thin, thin.

FIRST AND WORST GAFFE: Going with Blake Snell in the 3rd round was real dumb. What on earth were you thinking, Sonny?

SAVVIEST SELECTION: Two to pick from. Vlad Jr. in the 4th and J.D. Martinez in the 8th. Both were steals.

POF: Drafting out of the 13 hole, expectations were low for the **Blues**. Sorry to say, our man Sunny lived down to them. This team has bowel terminal written all over it--**13th place**.

Next issue: Skip wraps up his annual Pics 'N' Panz.

Skipper