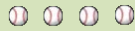


NEBRASKA HOT STOVE LEAGUE



SEASON XXXVII



2020 HSL Champion
West Des Moines Cubs
Manager: Shamu

400

FROM THE BULLPEN

2021 Campaign

Edition No. 14

July 9, 2021

Gentlemen:

Here are the standings through Independence Day, as well as the team point totals for Week 13:

HSL STANDINGS THRU WEEK 13 ENDING JULY 4, 2021

Rank	Team	Points	Pts Back
1	Bums	6646.2	-
2	Bombers	6508.1	138.1
3	Cubs	6285.1	361.1
4	Saints	6248.2	398.0
5	Skipjacks	6184.7	461.5
6	Wahoos	6104.1	542.1
7	Redbirds	6097.9	548.3
8	Tribe	6056.5	589.7
9	Senators	5848.1	798.1
10	Bears	5820.8	825.4
11	Monarchs	5777.5	868.7
12	Tigers	5734.5	911.7
13	Blues	5386.6	1259.6

POINT TOTALS FOR WEEK 13

Rank	Team	Points
1	Wahoos	563.5
2	Cubs	511.0
3	Senators	504.1
4	Bears	492.2
5	Tigers	489.3
6	Skipjacks	459.8
7	Bums	447.8
8	Bombers	428.2
	Monarchs	428.2
10	Redbirds	416.9
11	Tribe	416.4
12	Saints	388.1
13	Blues	358.4

SKIPPER'S JIBBER JABBER



The **Whinin' Wahoos** led the league in points for Week 13 with 563.5 points, a stout 52.5 points better than the second-best **Cubs** at 511.0 points. With all of his players hale and hearty, and with multiple overachievers like Joe Ross (48.0 points for the week), Tyler Anderson (41.0) and Adam Duvall (36.0), the PAwesome's Trail of Tears has finally dried up as his **Wahoos** team has tomahawked its way into sixth place.



The **Bums** slumped a bit during Week 13 with only the 7th highest total of 447.8 points, but Magpie's inestimable good fortune continues to carry the day as his chief competition, the **Bombers**, had only the 8th highest total with 428.2 points, allowing the **Bums** to expand their lead to 138.1 points.



While the **Blues'** colonic catastrophe of the season continues with another league-worst performance at 358.4 points, the heretofore **Supreme Saints** fell a bit from their previous heavenly perch with a 12th place weekly total of 388.1 points, dropping the **'Aints** and their Angelic but Authoritarian manager, the Teutonic Trumpetfish, into 4th place behind the **Cubs**. More later in this issue about this team.

INDIVIDUAL TOTALS

TOP 25 PITCHERS

1.	Zack Wheeler Phi - SP	Wahoos	440.0
2.	Jacob deGrom	Wahoos	436.0
3.	Kevin Gausman	Saints	431.0
4.	Brandon Woodruff	Redbirds	427.0
5.	Trevor Bauer	Tribe	417.0
6.	Walker Buehler	Skipjacks	408.0
7.	Gerrit Cole	Bums	405.0
8.	Max Scherzer	Tigers	392.0
9.	Freddy Peralta	Senators	391.0
10.	Yu Darvish	Blues	384.0
11.	Chris Bassitt	Tribe	382.0
12.	Clayton Kershaw	Senators	377.0
13.	Kyle Gibson	Monarchs	354.0
14.	Anthony DeSclafani	Bombers	350.0
15.	Trevor Rogers	Bums	343.0
16.	Carlos Rodón	Bums	336.0
	Sandy Alcantara	Wahoos	336.0
18.	Julio Urías	Tigers	335.0
19.	Robbie Ray	Tribe	332.0
20.	Lance Lynn	Bums	330.0
	Shane Bieber	Bombers	330.0
22.	Corbin Burnes	Redbirds	327.0
	Zack Greinke	Senators	327.0
24.	Germán Márquez	Tigers	325.0
25.	Yusei Kikuchi	Redbirds	319.0

WHO'S HOT - PITCHING

1.	Germán Márquez	Tigers	69.0
2.	Robbie Ray	Tribe	48.0
	Joe Ross	Wahoos	48.0
	Kyle Freeland	Bombers	48.0
5.	Mike Foltyniewicz	Bears	42.0
6.	Tyler Anderson	Wahoos	41.0
	James Kaprielian	Bears	41.0
8.	Alek Manoah	Bears	40.0
	Anthony DeSclafani	Bombers	40.0
10.	Freddy Peralta	Senators	39.0
	Carlos Martínez	Bombers	39.0
12.	Vince Velasquez	Skipjacks	37.0
	Nick Pivetta	Skipjacks	37.0
	Chris Bassitt	Tribe	37.0
15.	Nathan Eovaldi	Bombers	35.0
	Zack Wheeler	Wahoos	35.0
	Alex Cobb	Senators	35.0
	Walker Buehler	Skipjacks	35.0
19.	Chad Green	Tigers	33.5
20.	Chris Flexen	Tribe	33.0
	Corbin Burnes	Redbirds	33.0
22.	Yusei Kikuchi	Redbirds	32.0
	Zack Greinke	Senators	32.0
24.	Jacob deGrom	Wahoos	31.0
25.	Brandon Woodruff	Redbirds	30.0

WHO'S NOT - PITCHING

1.	Matt Manning	Blues	-18.0
2.	Shohei Ohtani	Skipjacks	-15.0
3.	Andrew Heaney	Bums	-12.0
	Dallas Keuchel	Tigers	-12.0
	David Peterson	Cubs	-12.0
6.	Sam Hentges	Bombers	-11.0
7.	Marco Gonzales	Senators	-10.0
8.	Jake Arrieta	Wahoos	-8.0
9.	Vladimir Gutierrez	Redbirds	-7.0
	Zac Gallen	Cubs	-7.0
11.	Patrick Corbin	Tribe	-6.0
	Hyun Jin Ryu	Skipjacks	-6.0
	J.A. Happ	Monarchs	-6.0
14.	Mike Minor	Tigers	-5.0
	Bailey Ober	Saints	-5.0
	J.C. Mejía	Saints	-5.0
17.	Pablo López	Redbirds	-3.0
	Chase De Jong	Senators	-3.0
19.	José Berríos	Blues	-1.0
	Luis Patiño	Bears	-1.0
	Justus Sheffield	Monarchs	-1.0

TOP 25 HITTERS

1.	Vladimir Guerrero Jr.	Blues	443.8
2.	Shohei Ohtani	Skipjacks	399.7
3.	Ronald Acuña Jr.	Senators	373.9
4.	Marcus Semien	Monarchs	372.5
5.	Fernando Tatis Jr.	Bears	371.8
6.	Carlos Correa	Bombers	357.9
7.	Rafael Devers	Saints	350.9
8.	Nick Castellanos	Cubs	348.5
9.	Xander Bogaerts	Senators	336.3
10.	Jesse Winker	Bums	336.2
11.	J.D. Martinez	Blues	335.8
12.	Bo Bichette	Skipjacks	334.3
13.	Jose Altuve	Bums	333.4
14.	Ozzie Albies	Senators	330.6
15.	Cedric Mullins	Bums	328.9
16.	Matt Olson	Monarchs	327.6
17.	Trea Turner	Bums	319.0
18.	Jared Walsh	Senators	315.3
19.	Max Muncy	Wahoos	313.6
20.	Freddie Freeman	Monarchs	312.4
21.	Bryan Reynolds	Bears	311.2
22.	Joey Gallo	Skipjacks	301.8
23.	Aaron Judge	Bombers	300.0
24.	Whit Merrifield	Tribe	299.7
25.	Manny Machado	Bums	299.1

WHO'S HOT - HITTING

1.	Jace Peterson	Cubs	52.2
2.	Willy Adames	Monarchs	51.5
3.	Shohei Ohtani	Skipjacks	50.5
4.	Ozzie Albies	Senators	48.2
5.	Marcus Semien	Monarchs	45.8
6.	Kiké Hernández	Tigers	44.2
7.	Manny Machado	Bums	42.2
8.	Dominic Smith	Bombers	41.6
9.	Max Muncy	Wahoos	41.5
10.	Joey Votto	Tigers	41.3
11.	J.D. Martinez	Blues	39.6
12.	José Abreu	Cubs	39.5
13.	Eric Haase	Tribe	38.0
14.	Joey Gallo	Skipjacks	37.5
15.	Cesar Hernandez	Tigers	37.4
16.	Cedric Mullins	Bums	37.0
17.	Fernando Tatis Jr.	Bears	36.6
18.	Starlin Castro	Redbirds	36.4
19.	Whit Merrifield	Tribe	36.3
20.	Adam Duvall	Wahoos	36.0
21.	Andrew Vaughn	Monarchs	35.6
22.	Rafael Devers	Saints	34.9
23.	Trea Turner	Bums	34.4
24.	Jonathan Schoop	Cubs	33.7
25.	Anthony Rendon	Cubs	33.6

WHO'S NOT - HITTING

1.	Cody Bellinger	Blues	-4.4
2.	David Dahl	Bums	-2.5
3.	Nico Hoerner	Blues	-1.9
4.	Ke'Bryan Hayes	Tribe	-1.8
5.	Andrew Benintendi	Redbirds	-1.5
	Jonathan Villar	Saints	-1.5
7.	Kolten Wong	Skipjacks	-0.8
8.	Joey Wendle	Bums	-0.6
9.	Miguel Sanó	Bombers	-0.5

SKIP SEZ



The **Whinin' Wahoos** now have the top two pitchers in the league with Zack Wheeler and Jacob deGrom, with 440.0 and 436.0 points, respectively. No more boo-hooing, Theo, and that's an order.



Although he's still the third best pitcher in the league with 431.0 points, the **Saints'** prize pitcher Kevvy appears to be running out of *Gaus*.



Look who crept up onto the pitching leaderboard at position No. 25: *Yusel Kikuchi* of the **Redbirds**. I have no idea who this cat is, but the fact that he is on Tirebiter's team now makes Jimmy's scouting trip last January to Wuhan, China make perfect sense.



Plaudits to Big Guy for having his Kinetic Krauts (Germán Márquez) at the top of the *Who's Hot* pitching leaderboard for the week with 69.0 points.



Hats off to SloPay for having the 6th and 8th hottest pitchers of the week with James Kaprielian (41.0) and Alek Manoah (40.0). This guy works the waiver wire like Shamu works the Valentino's buffet line, nary an unturned morsel.



Sunny has once again found the *fire-eater* of the week with Matt Manning at a salty 18 point moonwalk. Shockingly, right behind him on the *Who's Not* pitching list is the league shogun, Shohei Ohtani with -15 points.



Speaking of the *shogun*, Ohtani has rocketed to 2nd place on the hitting leaderboard with 399.7 points. Can you say, *en fuego*? I think I read that he had 15 home runs in 20 games, or something ridiculous like that.



The hitter steal of the draft right now looks to be Cedric "Cornbread" Mullins with 328.9 points to clock in at the 15th best hitter in the league, and who was plucked from the free agent file by the crafty Tricko.



A tip of the cap to Shamu for having the hottest hitter of the week, Jace Peterson, who with 52.2 points narrowly edged out Willy *Vanilly* Adames of the **Monarchs** with 51.5 points.



Week 13 also found our man *Sunny* at the top of the *Who's Not* hitting leaderboard with Cody Bellinger at negative 4.4 points, just a little bit worse than the third worst hitter for the week, the **Blues'** own Nico Hoerner at minus 1.9 points. Nothing like a matching set, eh, Sunny?

SKIP'S PIX 'N' PANZ: The Final Chapter

Drum roll, please. Here it is, what you all have been breathlessly waiting for, and what the Teutonic Trumpetfish wakes up each and every morning thinking about, the final assessment of the 13 drafted teams in our incomparable Hot Stove League:

SAINTS

Overview: Tsk. Tsk. Tsk. This may be, no, *this is*, the most feeble assemblage of pitchers in the annals of the Hot Stove League. By waiting until Round 8 of the Draft to select his first pitcher, and then making Dylan Bundy the ace of his staff, the Teutonic Trumpetfish walked himself ten feet off of an eight foot plank and into a bottomless black abyss. Of course, by completely ignoring the *Pitching is Everything* mantra, the affable and angelic owner of the **'Aints** was able to pick up Christian Yelich, Bryce Harper, Alex Bregman, Rafael Devers, George Springer, Anthony Rizzo and Giancarlo Stanton in Rounds 1-7. How's that working out for you, T.T.? Answer: Not so well. Among this septet of superstars, only Devers is found in the Top 25 list of hitters at No. 7.

FIRST AND WORST GAFFE: Listening to those voices that only Scooter can hear which told him to draft only hitters in Rounds 1-7.¹

SAVVIEST SELECTION: The aforementioned Kevin Gausman in the 9th Round, although he appears to be leaking petrol and may soon be running on fumes.

¹ The very same voices once told him that he could amass a small fortune for himself and his Sabre brother in law by purchasing 9,999 Hensley Meulens baseball cards; and the same voices that repeatedly tell him that he can make a living off of betting on football games, and that not only can this provide him with valued entertainment, but that he is *good at it*.

POF:

This may be wishful thinking, but Skip says that the **'Aints** finish the season in -- **5th place.**

So there you have it, ladies and gentlemen, the completion of Skip's 2021 Pix 'N' Panz. Here's how the final list of predictions lays out:

1. Bums
2. Cubs
3. Senators
4. Wahoos
5. Saints
6. Bombers
7. Redbirds
8. Monarchs
9. Tigers
10. Skipjacks
11. Tribe
12. Bears
13. Blues

You're welcome.

* * * * *

Next issue: A few words from Fay Vincent, and more.

Skipper