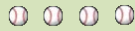


# NEBRASKA HOT STOVE LEAGUE



SEASON XXXVII



2020 HSL Champion  
West Des Moines Cubs  
Manager: Shamu

400

## FROM THE BULLPEN

2021 Campaign

Edition No. 15

July 16, 2021

Gentlemen:

Salutations and good cheer to all of you as we embark upon the second half of the 2021 Hot Stove League season. As always, the second half promises to be a competitive and hard-fought contest for the opportunity to have one of our names etched on The Cup as the Champion of the best and most competitive--top to bottom--fantasy league in the land.

Without further ado, then, we provide you below the standings through Sunday, July 11, just before the All Star break, as well as individual player totals. Enjoy the feast.

### HSL STANDINGS THRU WEEK 14 ENDING JULY 11, 2021

Rank	Team	Points	Pts Back
1	Bums	7150.4	-
2	Bombers	6819.9	330.5
3	Cubs	6784.4	366.0
4	Skipjacks	6685.4	465.0
5	Saints	6671.2	479.2
6	Redbirds	6622.4	528.0
7	Tribe	6566.9	583.5
8	Wahoos	6489.6	660.8
9	Monarchs	6362.5	787.9
10	Senators	6288.9	861.5
11	Tigers	6258.8	891.6
12	Bears	6227.3	923.1
13	Blues	5741.0	1409.4

### POINT TOTALS FOR WEEK 14

Rank	Team	Points
1	Monarchs	585.0
2	Redbirds	524.5
3	Tigers	524.3
4	Tribe	510.4
5	Bums	504.2
6	Skipjacks	500.7
7	Cubs	499.3
8	Senators	440.8
9	Saints	423.0
10	Bears	406.5
11	Wahoos	385.5
12	Blues	354.4
13	Bombers	311.8

### TOP 25 PITCHERS

1.	Kevin Gausman	Saints	485.0
2.	Jacob deGrom	Wahoos	466.0
3.	Brandon Woodruff	Redbirds	455.0
4.	Gerrit Cole	Bums	452.0
5.	Walker Buehler	Skipjacks	450.0
6.	Zack Wheeler	Wahoos	441.0
7.	Trevor Bauer	Tribe	417.0
8.	Chris Bassitt	Tribe	412.0
9.	Freddy Peralta	Senators	404.0
10.	Max Scherzer	Tigers	392.0
11.	Anthony DeSclafani	Bombers	383.0
12.	Clayton Kershaw	Senators	377.0
	Yu Darvish	Blues	377.0
14.	Robbie Ray	Tribe	375.0
15.	Julio Urías	Tigers	368.0
16.	Carlos Rodón	Bums	366.0
17.	Germán Márquez	Tigers	364.0
18.	Trevor Rogers	Bums	361.0
19.	Lance Lynn	Bums	358.0
	Kyle Gibson	Monarchs	358.0
21.	Corbin Burnes	Redbirds	346.0
22.	Sandy Alcantara	Wahoos	335.0
23.	José Berríos	Blues	334.0
	Zack Greinke	Senators	334.0
25.	Pablo López	Redbirds	332.0

### WHO'S HOT - PITCHING

1.	Kwang Hyun Kim	Skipjacks	63.0
2.	Jameson Taillon	Monarchs	56.0
3.	Kevin Gausman	Saints	54.0
4.	Jon Gray	Monarchs	50.0
5.	Wily Peralta	Tigers	49.0
6.	Gerrit Cole	Bums	47.0
7.	José Berríos	Blues	43.0
	Robbie Ray	Tribe	43.0
9.	Walker Buehler	Skipjacks	42.0
	Vladimir Gutierrez	Redbirds	42.0
	Pablo López	Redbirds	42.0
12.	Logan Gilbert	Saints	41.0

### WHO'S NOT - PITCHING

1.	Caleb Smith	Wahoos	-25.0
2.	Vince Velasquez	Skipjacks	-19.0
3.	Jon Lester	Senators	-18.0
4.	Chris Paddack	Saints	-16.0
5.	Justus Sheffield	Monarchs	-15.0
6.	J.C. Mejía	Saints	-10.0
7.	Yu Darvish	Blues	-7.0
8.	Erick Fedde	Blues	-5.0
9.	Michael Pineda	Saints	-4.0
10.	Yusei Kikuchi	Redbirds	-3.0
11.	Kris Bubic	Blues	-2.0
	Mike Minor	Tigers	-2.0

13.	Germán Márquez	Tigers	39.0
	Luis Castillo	Monarchs	39.0
15.	Charlie Morton	Cubs	37.0
16.	Chris Flexen	Tribe	35.0
	Triston McKenzie	Tribe	35.0
	Frankie Montas	Cubs	35.0
19.	Alex Wood	Bums	33.0
	Julio Urías	Tigers	33.0
	Anthony DeSclafani	Bombers	33.0
22.	Wade Miley	Senators	31.0
	Michael Wacha	Saints	31.0
	Jacob deGrom	Wahoos	31.0
	Tony Gonsolin	Blues	31.0

13.	Max Kranick	Bears	-1.0
	Sandy Alcantara	Wahoos	-1.0
	Trevor Williams	Blues	-1.0
	Nick Pivetta	Skipjacks	-1.0

### TOP 25 HITTERS

1.	Vladimir Guerrero Jr.	Blues	458.8
2.	Shohei Ohtani	Skipjacks	425.9
3.	Marcus Semien	Monarchs	385.1
4.	Fernando Tatis Jr.	Bears	382.3
5.	Nick Castellanos	Cubs	372.5
6.	Rafael Devers	Saints	370.6
7.	J.D. Martinez	Blues	364.3
8.	Xander Bogaerts	Senators	364.1
9.	Matt Olson	Monarchs	363.5
10.	Trea Turner	Bums	355.3
11.	Jose Altuve	Bums	355.0
12.	Bo Bichette	Skipjacks	353.8
13.	Carlos Correa	Bombers	353.1
14.	Joey Gallo	Skipjacks	347.0
15.	Jesse Winker	Bums	346.4
16.	Freddie Freeman	Monarchs	346.1
17.	Cedric Mullins	Bums	345.4
18.	Max Muncy	Wahoos	341.9
19.	Ozzie Albies	Senators	341.8
20.	Bryan Reynolds	Bears	333.7
21.	Jared Walsh	Senators	332.0
22.	Aaron Judge	Bombers	328.5
23.	Justin Turner	Wahoos	327.7
24.	Manny Machado	Bums	325.7
25.	Brandon Crawford	Senators	324.8

**WHO'S HOT - HITTING**

1.	David Fletcher	Senators	50.5
2.	Joey Gallo	Skipjacks	45.2
3.	AJ Pollock	Skipjacks	44.7
4.	Mookie Betts	Monarchs	44.5
5.	Max Kepler	Tribe	43.0
6.	Brandon Lowe	Tribe	42.3
7.	Garrett Cooper	Bums	41.5
8.	Dansby Swanson	Tribe	41.1
9.	Brandon Crawford	Senators	39.4
10.	Rhys Hoskins	Bears	39.3
11.	Bryce Harper	Saints	38.5
	Franmil Reyes	Skipjacks	38.5
	Juan Soto	Redbirds	38.5
14.	Wil Myers	Monarchs	38.0
15.	Francisco Lindor	Redbirds	36.7
16.	Leury García	Tribe	36.3
	Trea Turner	Bums	36.3
18.	Matt Olson	Monarchs	35.9
19.	Justin Turner	Wahoos	34.8
20.	Javier Báez	Bears	34.3
21.	Jed Lowrie	Wahoos	34.0
22.	Freddie Freeman	Monarchs	33.7
23.	Alec Bohm	Saints	33.6
24.	Darin Ruf	Senators	33.2
25.	Robbie Grossman	Wahoos	33.0

**WHO'S NOT - HITTING**

1.	Carlos Correa	Bombers	-4.8
2.	Wander Franco	Bears	-3.1
3.	Kole Calhoun	Wahoos	-2.0
	George Springer	Saints	-2.0
5.	Tony Kemp	Bombers	-1.6
6.	Steven Duggar	Tribe	-1.4
7.	Whit Merrifield	Tribe	-1.1
8.	Eddie Rosario	Tigers	-0.5
	Willi Castro	Skipjacks	-0.5

**2021 ALL STAR GAME**

I suppose most if not all of you watched at least some of the All Star game on Tuesday night and so all or most of us can say that we have witnessed a remarkable piece of history with Shohei Ohtani both pitching and hitting in the game. Somebody remarked to me the other day that he is a once-in-a-generation player, but I would go even farther than that. I think Ohtani is a once-in-a-century player. The great Bambino was almost indisputably<sup>1</sup> this player for the 20th century, and now we have Ohtani for the 21st century. He is a freak of nature, in my humble estimation.

<sup>1</sup> Well, PAwesome will probably find a way to dispute this, but we'll see.



**Batting**  
Player

Player	AB	R	H	BB	RBI
17 Shohei Ohtani · DH	2	0	0	0	0

**Pitching**  
Player

Player	IP	H	ER	BB	SO
17 Shohei Ohtani · P	1.0	0	0	0	0

## FROM THE BORED OF EDUCATION

Finally, I share with you now a *Wall Street Journal* article by former Major League Commissioner Fay Vincent which I recently read and which is worth sharing with all of you:

### *Lessons From a Summer Digging Ditches*

I learned teamwork, pacing and, most important, the value of education.

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By Fay Vincent

June 27, 2021 3:54 pm ET



I was 16 in the summer of 1954, when I worked my first job. My father believed I should be able to make some money to help with school costs, so I was hired by the largest construction company in New Haven, Conn., C.W. Blakeslee & Sons. I spent most days in a ditch with a pick and shovel. I learned a lot.

Each morning I took the bus from our home in suburban Hamden to the center of New Haven, where another bus took me west on Chapel Street to the Blakeslee offices and yard, where those of us hoping to find work waited until the crew bosses got their assignments and picked the men they'd need that day. A kid with no experience was last to be called, but there was plenty of work, so I regularly heard a boss point to me and say: "I need you today." Off I would go, riding in the rear of a dump truck painted in what was known as Blakeslee Blue, headed to a dig a ditch.

Usually we were digging trenches for telephone cables along a city street. After a stop for coffee—which I drank for the first time on the job that summer—we were in the ditch.

On one of my early days in the ditch, I was working alongside an “old” laborer with a thick Italian accent. He was probably 40. As I dug furiously, he turned to me with obvious impatience: “Hey kid, slowa down. You go too fast. Take it easy. You finisha theese ditch, there gonna be another ditch.” Major lesson learned. I must not make my co-worker look bad. I was on a team, and the team had its rules.

The next lesson was related but subtler. After a few weeks on the job, I began to realize the value of pacing myself. On many mornings I—young and fit and eager—would work so briskly that by noon I was tired, and the hot summer-afternoon sun was looming ahead. I soon learned to set a pace I could hold throughout the long day. How I began to long for 3 o’clock, when I knew we had only one more hour to work.

I watched the older men who did this for a living, and I began to appreciate the brutal realities of a life of manual labor. They weren’t there just for the summer. When I left to go back to school, they would remain in the ditches. They were there in the bitter winter cold. For them, the ditches stretched ahead for a lifetime. I knew I had to apply myself if I aspired to something else.

Thus the central lesson was the value of education. Swinging a pick in the ditch motivated me to find a better way to live. I knew my education was the means to freedom from the ditch—from having to use my muscles to make a living.

I never needed any motivational talks from my parents. The Blakeslee ditch gave me a priceless form of education. I thought my father was being harsh when he sent me off for the summer job at Blakeslee’s. In fact, he was wise enough to understand that my education would continue through that hot summer. There was no classroom, but I never forgot those lessons.

*Mr. Vincent was commissioner of baseball, 1989-92.*

As I read Fay’s words of wisdom, I harkened back to my own toils of labor during two seasons of detasseling corn, one summer shoveling concrete for Dobson Bros. Construction, one summer of hard labor on a small steel track gang for Burlington Northern,<sup>2</sup> three summers in the trenches laying utility pipe for Cole Construction, and one winter laying utility pipe for the new

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<sup>2</sup> Working as a “Gandy Dancer” along with my Rocket High pals Larry Larson, Bruce Kuhn and Gary Klum, working our butts off under a hot sun while being constantly demeaned and hollered at by a completely demented jackass and sadist of a foreman by the name of Ricky Mason. I wanted to quit that damned job every single Friday, and my dad always talked me into staying, citing the \$6.50 hourly wage that I made there in comparison with the \$3.25 wage I had made the summer before at Dobson Bros. Good old Dad got me through that summer.

power plant in Grand Island, working entirely outdoors during some of the coldest weather to which I have ever been exposed. The bottom line is that working those often miserable and monotonous construction jobs over multiple summers and one winter was invaluable to me in forging my own career path, and gave me the motivation that I sorely needed to get through college and law school, not unlike Fay Vincent. Regrettably, it didn't springboard me into the role of Commissioner of Baseball<sup>3</sup> as it did Mr. Vincent, but all things considered, I have no grounds for complaint.

And that's a wrap. Have a great weekend, brethren.

Skipper

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<sup>3</sup> Which is currently paying Rob Manfred something like 30 million bucks a year, which almost seems criminal.