

BRASSBALL: News and Notes

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BLAST OFF!!!

Is it just me, or is it hard to believe that we are only about 2 weeks away from the draft. It seems like only yesterday that the possibility of starting a summer league to "bookend" the winter BRASS league was born. That was over 2 years ago! I can't believe how fast time flies. This draft is going to be something to remember. I know all of you have participated in drafts before, but I imagine most of those drafts were simply off season rookie drafts, where your existing team added a few players here and there. But this one, well, this one will likely set the tone for your franchise for the next 3-4 years.(at least) I know that I personally have participated in only one draft comparable to the magnitude of this one, and even that one didn't allow for the drafting of **anyone** on the face of the earth. I can't wait. Let's start now!

DRAFT DAY PROCEDURE

Here's how we are going to work things. Those people not present at the draft will be called directly when it is their turn to pick. The original plan of calling, letting the phone ring once, and having the owner call into "draft headquarters" is simply too time consuming. We will save a great deal of time by simply calling direct.

It is vital that each of you drafting by phone let me know, **before the draft**, if you will not be drafting from your home. So, if a group of you will be drafting together, call me and let me know. Also, because I will be calling you directly from a hotel phone, I anticipate being billed for that privilege. Therefore, I will need each of you phone drafters to provide me with the money to pay that bill. I've discussed this matter with a couple people, and it is my feeling that 45 phone calls to each one of you will cost somewhere in the neighborhood of \$20 each. (that is less than 50¢ per call) **Please send me the \$20 before draft day!** If, after receiving the itemized bill, I find that some of you paid more than you should have, I will refund the difference. I will also ask you to make up the difference if \$20 isn't enough to cover calling you 45 times. **Special note to Allen Nelson:** Since Allen picks last, he will have back to back picks. This means less phone calls. Therefore, Allen need only send me 15\$ for phone calls. If I need more later I'll ask. Hey, cut him some slack. The guy should get a little consideration for being saddled with the last pick.

It is also a reality that you phone drafters will be asked to make update calls to other phone drafters. This will enable the draft to run smoother and prevent me (or Jim Klugh-draft conductor) from having to run down the last twenty some picks to each of you when it is your pick. We will tell you who to update during the draft. (Note: When it is your pick, you will be on a 2 minute limit.)

--Has everyone made their hotel reservations?

AMATEUR OR NOT?

Remember, each team may draft up to 5 players who have never had a card before. Note that some players who didn't play an inning in the major leagues last year may not be amateurs if they had a card **before** last year. Now, those players can be drafted. However, they will have to be placed on your teams 40 man **major league** roster.

WHO ALL IS COMIN?

It looks like half the league will be at the draft. There are still a couple of you who haven't told me for sure what your plans are. Please do so when you know.

Also, those of you who are coming should keep all receipts relating to your travel costs, ie, airfare, gas money, etc. And **please, do not** forget to bring your checkbooks.

LEAGUE DIRECTORY

I know that Doug Kehlmeier, the league directory publisher, has not received many bios from our league membership. For those of you coming to the draft, if you haven't done yours yet, please do so and bring it to draft weekend. Those not coming should still do theirs and mail it to Doug. I have enclosed a sample bio to give you an idea of what the league is looking for. You are not limited to what is on this one. Simply use this as an example. Don't worry about making it all nice and neat. The example is the finished product, and Doug is free to organize the bios in whatever format he wishes. The important thing is for each of you to get the text, along with a picture of yourself, to Doug. Thanks.

NEW SCHEDULE AND BALLPARK SHEET ENCLOSED

Replace the schedule and ballpark sheet I sent out last month with those enclosed. Due to a new owner entering the league, each sheet needed to be updated.

Our new owner, Chris Jewel, has named his team the East Indy Tiggers. His club will play in, appropriately enough, Tigger Stadium. The league welcomes you Chris. (Just don't pick anyone I want!!)

A NOTE ON THE STRIKE

A few of you have asked me what effect the strike is going to have on the future of our league. Relax. The strike is going to end. Just remember you heard it here first! What's going to happen is this: Owners will bring replacement players to spring training. Players, seeing that the owners really are serious about going on with the season, will start to worry. Cracks in the union's armor will materialize. Then, slowly but surely, players will start to cross the line. After a few **big names** cross the line, the union will see that it can't win this thing. The union will, in order to save face, sit down

with the owners and work out a settlement. It will be a lousy one, but a settlement all the same.

Wont happen you say? Think back to the NFL strike of several years ago. After three replacement weeks of football, regulars started to cross the picket line. Few people remember that Joe Montana was one of those to cross the line. The same will happen with baseball. Book it.

A WORD FROM THE LONG ISLAND TIGERS:

Tom Taormina has submitted an in depth look at the place his Tigers will call home: Ethan Edwards Memorial Field. Thanks Tom. (by the way: what the heck is Merion Bluegrass?)

Talk to you on Feb.18!

KK

P.S. Those of you coming to the draft should bring my phone number with in case you need to call me the night before the draft, or if for some reason your flight is delayed.

Also, when you arrive at the hotel, you may want to ask the front desk to show you which room we will be drafting out of. Just a thought.

Name Rod Humphrey

Brass Franchise Fargo
Niceholes

Address

Phone

Entrance Into League

Took over Spokane
10/91.

How long playing Strato 13 years

Occupation Certified Public Accountant
(Actual title in firm: Supervisor)

Age 29 Marital Status Married -- Wife's Name Marsha

Children None

Other Interests Besides Baseball Most other sports,
especially when Indiana
University is involved;
Softball; Golf; Bowling.

Favorite Team(s) Chicago Cubs Least Favorite Team(s) New York Mets
Toronto Blue Jays Oakland A's

Favorite Player(s) Ryne Sandberg Least Favorite Player(s) Jose Canseco
Andre Dawson, Nolan Ryan Darryl Strawberry
Jim Abbott, Rick Sutcliffe, Rickey Henderson
Carlos Baerga, Greg Swindell,
Pat Listach, Mickey Morandini,
Billy Williams (ist idol)

Favorite Baseball Memory Seeing Dave Stieb almost no-hit the White Sox. George Bell hit one over the roof in the same game. Sitting in the bleachers at Wrigley Field for the first time. Nearly catching homerun ball at Wrigley Field (See November 1992 newsletter). Following the Cubs pennant drive in 1984. Seeing Hank Aaron hit 715. All-Star game at Wrigley Field in 1990.

Personal Baseball Heroics Throwing the first pitch at a South Bend White Sox game. Winning our league in little league the first year I played. Being selected to the all-star team in little league. Getting a hit in my only at-bat in grade school baseball. Hitting a ball off the fence in little league--the play didn't count later on because our team made an illegal substitution and the game had to be replayed.

As Baseball Commissioner ("puppet") What Would Be Your First Act?

Reduce the power the owners have over the game. Commissioner should be able to act as a czar.

Favorite Quote about Baseball or from Baseball "Hershiser spelled backwards is research." Harry Caray. "Valenzuela backwards is unpronouncable." Harry Caray. "Back, Back, Back. Hey, Hey . . ." Jack Brickhouse.

Other Franchise Information Derivation of name--It's really kind of nasty if you stress the right letter. I actually got the idea from the movie, "Johnny Dangerously." Manager: Billy Williams. Fielding Coach: Ron Santo. Hitting Coach: Ernie Banks. Pitching Coach: Ferguson Jenkins. Honorary Coaches: Roger Maris and all those good Cub players who never played in post-season.