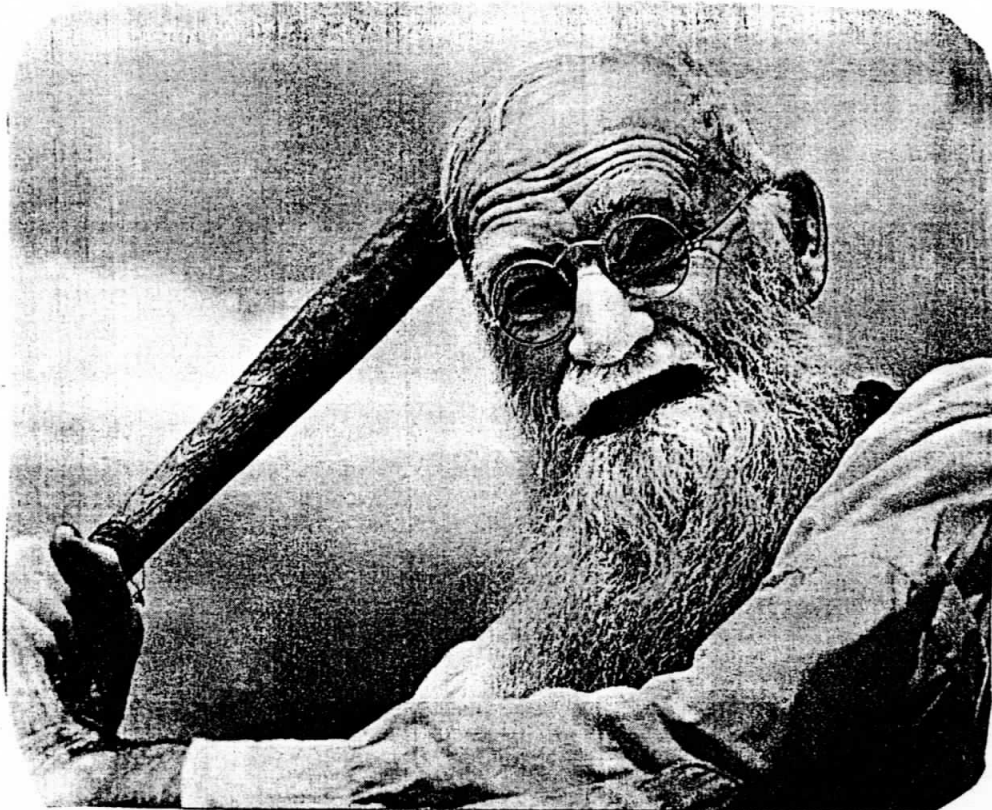


"Baseball News You Cannot Get Anywhere Else"

THE INSIDE PITCH

June 1991



The legendary "Mighty Casey" shows the form that brought him to the forefront of baseball earlier this century.

Casey was being recruited by the Gunslingers as a batting coach.

After watching the carnage of a four game series, Casey turned down the job saying, "Pennant fever for the Gunslingers must have been a 24 hour virus. This team, with the exception of Bo Jackson, Tim Wallach, Ruben Sierva and the pitching staff, belongs in the minor leagues.

This team is so bad that vendors were selling hotdogs "to go" by the 6th inning. They showed me ways to lose I never knew existed. They are like a man swimming in the ocean

with a cut on his arm --- sooner or later the sharks are 'gonna get him".

After receiving the news of what Casey had said, Gunslinger owner and manager, Chip Foster, said, "I have never been wrong as a manager, my players just don't follow through on my instructions. Besides, that old man is only known for striking out in big games".

What do you get when you cross a Gunslinger with a Lawgiver?

An undertaker.

The Rats and Tigers met recently for the first time this season. The Rats, who are rebuilding this year, won three out of five games handing the Tigers their first lost series of the season. Richard was quoted as saying, "Gosh, I wish I had a bad team so I could enjoy Strat". I am sure the other league members feel the same way.

The Jaybirds have won 9 out of this last 13 games with wins over the Gunslingers, Rats and T-Birds. Jami is shopping for a left-handed stopper for his bullpen. He hopes to have his starting line-up rested by the 100-game mark and plans to make a strong push for the play-offs in the last 60 games.

Rats' pitcher, Steve Wilson, pitched 8 innings of no hit ball against the Twins recently. Wilson was pulled from the game in the 9th inning with Tom Henke coming in to try and close out the game. Unfortunately, the Twins got a hit to spoil the no-hitter.

Speaking of no-hitters, Bud Black of the Gunslingers pitched a complete game no-hitter against the Lawgivers. The amazing fact about this is that Black had a 9 plus ERA before the start of the game. Black joins Mike Morgan as the only other pitcher to pitch a no-hitter in the last two years.

An interesting note from the Bulls -- Melido Perez has been injured four times this year. It is rare when a pitcher gets injured, but four times to the same pitcher? A new Strat record is born! Congratulations Bulls!

How to Beat Richard in the Long Run

by Randy Shavis

It isn't easy beating Richard. He only has superstars at every position, or Strat superstars... but it can be done.

I'm not talking game to game, because the depth of his talent is such that no matter how well you play, he's going to win 100+ games per season. How can we knock him down a peg? One way is to change the rules--limit the protected list to 8 or 10 or have a redraft. That's not fair...to Richard or anyone else who's been in the league for more than a couple of years. Other possible rule changes would limit the total number of ABs or innings allowed per team (voted down a couple of years ago), limiting total on base allowed in the starting lineup, or whatever... rules that would only dent the battleship, not sink it.

No, the only fair way to damage the Deyerle dynasty is to use wise trading. That doesn't mean that we shouldn't trade with "Back back back back." It only means that we should monitor how the deals we make will help the Tigers, since first place has been his for the last three years, definitely this year, and likely next year.

The time that the Tigers are vulnerable is now... his one strength/weakness is that he always has more than 15 "protectable" players. Every year so far, team after team has lusted after these players and offered Richard a deal in which he's jettisoned excess baggage, picked up draft picks, and is never left holding a player he really wanted to trade.

After the 15 man rosters, he doesn't have any advantage. On draft day, except for his massive bin of draft picks and flexibility, he doesn't have an advantage in any trade. But now he's vulnerable to being pushed... I don't have a roster to run down, but even with the Fernandez/Higuera injuries, he'll have no problem finding 15 this year to protect and more to trade. But what do you think the price of a Jay Buhner will be on Oct. 30th compared to now? Hmmmm. Going into next year's draft, would you rather have Richard with an extra 2nd compared to a 5th or whatever? You say Jay's price might go up? Come November 1 or Dec. 1 or whenever 15 man rosters are due, Richard would give you a bargain as opposed to "eating" Buhner.

It's gonna take two years. Could be three. But as long as somebody keeps bailing him out with his extra players, Richard has extra draft choices, and no extra players. If you feel you can't pass up a deal on El Sid at bargain rates, at least hold fast on the draft picks... trade him a player... means somebody has to get released and one less draft pick for the World Champs.

Look at it this way. You're selling watermelons to the market. Your next door neighbor sells to all the markets (a much bigger operation). He uses up all his markets and has watermelons left, do you then buy some? No way, Jose. You force him to eat those melons so that he can't use the extra money to buy extra land and more seed and fertilizer for next year. And if he has to throw a few melons in the ditch, even at bargain prices you would have had to pay, you've helped your competitive situation.

So don't buy those melons from Richard now, while he's carrying some extra roster weight. Wait until the price is right (at the very, very last minute) and maybe if he has to eat a couple of melons, he won't be quite as strong next year. Or maybe 93... this century?

What do you get when you cross a Bus Head with a Dead Head?

*A ballplayer wearing a tie-dyed t-shirt
smoking artificial grass who thinks
he is the reincarnation of Ralph Cramden.*

Top 10 List

*Willie McGee's Most Frequently Used
Excuses For Failing To
Make The Catch*

Drum Roll, please....

- 1. Voodoo Love.*
- 2. I've fallen and can't get up.*
- 3. It's Miller time.*
- 4. The San Diego Chicken made me an offer I could not refuse.*
- 5. My feelings were hurt by the jeers of so-called "fans".*
- 6. I was having a Maalox moment.*
- 7. Fumes from the artificial grass make me woozy.*
- 8. Umpires wouldn't let me use the bullpen cart.*
- 9. The guy in the third row had me hypnotized.*
- 10. I was having a V-8!*

In National League news...

Congratulations to the Leigers' family on the birth of their daughter, Abigail Leigh Leigers. Don has appointed Abigail to be his assistant g.m., responsible for payroll and player contracts. Trades with the Uncallables must still go through Don. What a shame.

What do you get when you mix an Outlaw with a Republican?

Two peas in a pod.

Ducks' manager, Jim Melillo, starts a two-month vacation on July 5, 1991. All National Leaguers who can schedule games with Jim before he leaves, please do so.

The Ducks have won 6 out of their last 7 games, winning against the Monarchs, Roadrunners and Cannucks.

The Ducks/Roadrunners series featured a game that should go down in Strat history. The Ducks were leading 9 to nothing after two innings and 14 to 7 after six. In the 7th, the Roadrunners scored 4 runs to make the score 14 to 11. The Ducks scored two in the 8th and the Roadrunners responded by scoring 2 of their own in the bottom of the 8th. The score is 16 to 13 in favor of the Ducks at the top of the 9th.

The Ducks go down without scoring in their half of the 9th. The Roadrunners score on a Kevin Maas two-run homer, reducing the lead to 1. The next batter, Greg Vaughn, misses a homerun, but settles for a double, putting the tying run on second base; however, there he remains as the Ducks win it 16 to 15. This nine-inning game lasted 1 1/2 hours, with a combined hit total of 44. It is quite possible that this game set another Strat League record.

What do you get when you mix a Rebel with a Democrat?

A rebel with a cause.

"I could have won all five games. Marty just greased the living crap out of me." These were the comments Jack Olsen had on his most recent "run in" with the Seminoles. To show just how greasy Marty was, in game two, 10th inning, 2 outs, runner on second, tied game - Marty rolls a pitcher X on a pitcher who has an E rating of 0. Marty rolls a ONE on his twenty-sided di for a one star single. "After rolling the second ONE, Jack rolled out of his seat and hit the floor", said Marty. George Brett followed the two singles with a two RBI triple. Seminoles take it 6 to 3.

Staying with the Cannucks, they recently hit their fourth triple play of the year, but won the game 4 to 0 over the Monarchs.

The Monarchs have 193 stolen bases in 88 games, 62 times caught stealing. The only player to have played 35+ games and not stolen a base is Ron Kittle. Kittle, when asked about this, stole a line from Tom Lasorda, "If I were in a race with a pregnant woman, I would finish third". Enough said.

The Outlaws continue to roll with the best record in either league. A team that was once considered the dark horse, is now the horse to catch in the National League. "This team has deep depth", Yogi Berra once said, this year it applies very well to the Outlaws.

Update in the National League...

The Ducks are flying high on an eleven game winning streak. Winners of 16 out of their last 20 games, the Ducks have nested into fourth place, five games over 500. (45-40).

Matt Williams has been one of the biggest contributors in this streak, with a 16 game hitting streak. It should be mentioned that a gift of a "Rubber Ducky" in shades has proven to be a good luck charm. The team's record with this "charm" is 12 and 1. Who was the benefactor of this lucky charm? The Monarchs.

Note for the new dads:

The changing of diapers - in the older, traditional form, was not an easy thing to do -- so I'll end with advice on the art of the change-up, based on the traditional cloth diaper...

You take a diaper and fold it in the shape of a baseball diamond. Take the baby's bottom and put it on the pitcher's mound. Take first base and pin it to third base. Take home and slide it into second, and that is the secret of a good change-up.

A bit of baseball trivia - - Who is the only player ever to hit two grand slams in one game?

Answer: Jim Gentile, 1961, for Baltimore against the L.A. Angels.

(Thanks to Marty "The Mighty Quinn" for the above trivia question and answer.)

With that in mind, the following is a list of players who have hit grand slams this year in Strat.

National League

*Ron Kittle, Monarchs
Dave Hollins
Joe Carter (2), Uncallables
Jeff King
Jeff Blauser, Rebels
Kal Daniels, Cannucks
Matt Williams, Ducks
Kurt Stillwell
Dave Justice
Jose' Canseco (2), Seminoles
Mitch Webster, Bimbos
Howard Johnson*

American League

*Paul O'Neil, T-Birds
Dave Parker, Lawgivers
Rob Deer, Jaybirds
Mike Greenwall
Jay Buhner, Tigers
Paul Moliter (2)
Von Hayes
Carlos Quintana, Whales
Cecil Fielder (2), Twins*

The following is a list of players that managers would be willing to trade at the 100 game mark:

T-Birds: O'Brien, Leach, Cook and Liliquest

Lawgivers: Winfield, D. Parker, G. Larkin, Lemon, Gleaton, and R. Robinson

Whales: Quintana, Pall

Rats: Milligan, Stubbs, Henke and Santiago

Gunslingers: Dibble, Harvey, Galarraga, Braggs, Bergman and Incavilla

Rebels: Franco, Montgomery, Dazcenco, Kruk Stewart and Welch

Cannucks: H. Brooks, dice and briefcase...

STANDINGS

American League

Tigers	46-17	-----
Bulls	49-36	8
Twins	41-31	9 1/2
Bus Heads	35-25	9 1/2
Jaybirds	44-38	11 1/2
Rats	34-33	14
Whales	38-52	21 1/2
Gunslingers	45-61	22 1/2
Lawgivers	45-61	22 1/2
T-Birds	35-60	27

STANDINGS

National League

<i>Outlaws</i>	55-24	-----
<i>Seminoles</i>	54-26	1
<i>Monarchs</i>	53-40	9
<i>Ducks</i>	45-40	13
<i>Uncallables</i>	53-59	18 1/2
<i>Cannucks</i>	30-39	20
<i>Bimbos</i>	26-38	21 1/2
<i>Rebels</i>	34-52	24 1/2
<i>Roadrunners</i>	26-55	30

COLLECTIBLES

Baseball Cards For Sale

John J. is helping a friend liquidate his baseball card collection; individuals interested in purchasing these cards may phone John.

Casey At The Bat

...Oh! Somewhere in this favored land the sun is shining bright,
the band is playing somewhere, and somewhere hearts are light;
and somewhere men are laughing, and somewhere children shout,
but there is no joy in Mudville: Mighty Casey has struck out.

Ernest Lawrence Thayer

The Boys of Strat

Oh! Somewhere in the League of Strat
on any given night,
men are little boys once more,
hopes are high,
eyes are shining bright.

Somewhere a phone is ringing,
a trade is in the making,
and with some friendly persuasion,
the guy is for the taking.

For someone there'll be no sleeping,
no form of respite from his plight
because of the deal that got away,
there'll be no rest tonight...

His fate, like the dice, has been cast.

Gayle

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