

THE HERMAN

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Conan may leave Utah

Conan has announced that if the Utes, who are struggling, don't win their division, He may declare himself a free agent. Speculation has Conan going to Springfield, where he and Dirk Lindros would form a great power hitting team. This would be tough, however, as Jason Foster shouldn't be moved to the outfield and the team would be able to pay for very little else with those 2 contracts.

Eddie of Utah has stated that this won't happen, and Conan will remain a Ute. Conan has been frustrated by the team's losing stretch and by the Miami Stars pitching, which walked him 7 times in a 3 game sweep. In game 3, a frustrated Conan was 0 for 4 while swinging at bad pitches. With 2 on in the 9th, however, Miami took no chances and pitched to him. Conan had struck out in a similar situation against Jesus Gomez the previous day.

New Salary Structure

The 1998 salaries will reflect an increasing disparity in big and small markets. New York will have the highest payroll at \$675. Alaska will be the lowest, with a max budget of \$400. This is no where near the disparity of MLB. If payrolls for major leaguers were calculated the same as microleague, with players under \$500,000 not counted, New York Yanks would be highest, at \$1074. Cleveland and Chicago also top 1000. Pittsburgh is lowest at \$108 ! Montreal and Detroit also are under \$300.

Book Reviews

The Greatest Team That Didn't say UTE, by Brad Boomer

Brad isn't the 1st player to write about this team, as Skullgrin, Wayne Williams, and Link have done it, and his book certainly isn't the best. In the few sections on baseball, Brad recalls how Link helped him regain his aggressiveness at the plate (Which worked for then but would end his career one year later), and how Bo Supreme shows tremendous patience in converting Brad to a backup catcher. Unfortunately, most of the book is occupied by Brad's insensitive racial views. He calls Jose Ramirez "our spic shortstop", Lonnie Reagan "the darkie", Galvatron a "giant tin can", Link a "faerie", and Sonic an "earthpig". The Strangest thing is that in interviews with these players, none of them seem to take offense. The most common reaction is "well, that's just the way Brad is". In the closing chapter Brad denounces the governments of this world and predicts a worldwide Aryan takeover in the year 2004.

Winning: The Only Thing I Know, by Eddie of Utah.

This is must read material for any manager, as Eddie talks about his winning philosophy towards winning and life. He firmly believes that the key to success is never to do anything half-assed. "I am blessed in this regard, with this body I can only do things wholly-assed" Many people believe the greatest key to Eddie's success is the constant improvement of his players. "Don't ever let anyone tell you that you can't do something. If You can't do it now, find someone who can and just do what he does. A tremendous amount of my players have hit homeruns just by acting like Conan" Few believed that Holmes, Muttonly, Zamuda, Zygyk and Cortez, when they entered the league, would hit. Eddie details the development of each. All great things must come to an end. Have we seen the last burst of greatness from these Utes? Its too early to tell, but they sure were fun while it lasted.

HOF Alert

It has been a while since we have inducted hall of famers, and there are several candidates who will go in soon. I can't remember who the last guys to go in were. Skullgrin comes to mind, He's a definite, as is Chris Abbott. Voters will want to make sure Abbott stays retired, though. Same with Alex Hansen. Rodimus Prime will probably go in. Bobby Young, Michael Adams, and Jose Ramirez were the greatest shortstops of their Era, but their feats have been overshadowed by Rugless Odor and Lou Zamuda. Michael Adams was the best offensive player, Jose Ramirez the best defensive and had the best single year, and Young had the most hits, ranking 2nd on the career list when he retired. I think all three of those guys will get in, as there really won't be an overabundance of candidates until Misfire, Lewis Solo Jr, Gerald White, Rod Chamberlain, Rod Jackson, Sheba, Sunsurf, Wally Calhoun, Roger Chillingworth, John Terry, and Bernie Grayson retire. Those guys are all in their early to mid 30's.

All-Star Voting

Here's a new way to add defense to all star points:

1st Base: Sorry, they get voted in based on their hitting. 1B Putouts will not give you a measure of how many plays they make. Assists are good, but Earl Sinclair may get more of these than Hal Glover simply because Hal is fast enough to get back to the bag himself.

Catchers: $CS*4 - SB$

2b, 3b, ss: $(Po + A)/5$ -errors

OF: $Po/2 + A - E$

Here are the top all star candidates for each position:
by Dirge, SL Editor and hero of the '88 Stars

Catchers:

ML: Favorite: George Kird. George has been great defensively, plus has really improved at the plate, showing why he was the #4 overall pick from the 1995 draft. He gets less playing time than some other catchers. This could hurt him in all-star points, but Bo won't let stats like that prevent him from doing what's best for the team.

Others to watch: Charles Johnson, Chris Berman, Bud McNamara

SL: Favorite: Bruce Berano. He was picked one spot behind George Kird. He doesn't quite match George on defense, but is probably a better hitter. He is currently second in Slugging.

Others: Todd Allen (4th in slugging with a near .400 OBA), Pudge Fernandez (Starting to hit after a slow start), Billy Corgan, Nigel Tufnel (If he ever gets going)

1ST Base:

ML: Favorite: Stuart Johnson. This guy could win a batting title.

Others: Vern Terrell is a tremendous offensive player, but is very inconsistent. He is capable of hitting anywhere from .210 to .330. Jerry Tugwell has the ability, but has only regressed since entering the league. If he doesn't improve this year I wouldn't expect to see him in Georgia next year. Also Dolph Rommell, Hal Glover, and Dmitri Jefferson.

SL: Favorite: Conan the Barbarian and Don Mutton as 1B and DH.

Others: Eddie is the All Star manager, those two have the jobs and that's final. Brant Bowen has been an excellent Rookie in Phoenix.

2ND Base:

ML: Favorite: Tony Bambora. This position is packed in the ML, but Tony is still the best all-around, and his competition will admit that. Class act on and off the field and a sure Hall of Famer. He hasn't won an MVP award yet, but has been close several times.

Others: Sonic Russell, Joe Thomas, Jason Dunn. Pedro Santini has the talent but once again is injured. Thomas is a lock to make the team under MGR Duck Williams, Sonic will probably get on too, leaving no room for Pedro of the Busy B's.

SL: Favorite: El Jawa, close race over Jacen Solo.

Others: Derek Mills is having his best year, and Billy Pippen has bounced back from a tough 1996.

Shortstop:

ML: Favorite: Zeke Morris. He has the biggest bat. Omar Rodriguez and Robin Young are next. Keep Ival Vizquel in mind if you put a big weight on defense. He has to be a big reason for the success of the Orlando Staff.

SL: Favorite: Obviously Lou Zamuda. This could be his MVP year.

Others: Felix Andujar, Rugless Odor, Ahmed Abdul-Abu, and Grant Gilliam. Gilliam, who hit over .300 in 1995, is over .340 with good extra base power. If he is for real he could be a poor man's Lou Zamuda.

3RD Base:

ML: Favorite: Mahatma Russell.

Others: Anakin Solo, Ron Davis (If the pitchers will stop throwing at him), John Conner, and the power hitting Butches in NY and Hawaii.

SL: Favorite: Helmut Schmidt

Others: Eric Stratten, if he stars hitting at all, and Ed Bellamy, if he can keep hitting.

Outfield:

ML Top 3: Sheba, Willie Hayes, Nicholas Dark

Others: Marty Lefleur, Vernell Hightower, Kenny Anderson, Gerald White, Harvey Aaron, Paul Hudson, Misfire, Virgil Lane, Damon Nkik, Alex "MVP" Burks, Rico Cortez, Byron Wood, Rod Jackson, Lowbacca, and Raul Battista.

SL Top 3: Kermit Holmes, Rob Block, and Cesar Ramos.

Others: Alvin Lewis, Rod Chamberlain, Albert Bovine, Lonnie Morena, Michael Johnson, Reggie Wilkins, Roberto Ramirez, Dirk Lindros, Bob Zygyk, Dee Sanders, and Kirby Miller.

Some may question why my Top three don't include the 10 million dollar man, but Holmes, once he finally gets going, is the best. Block's Power numbers over the last 4 years are far better than Lindro's. Ok, So Holmes is a better leadoff man and Block is a better power hitter, but isn't Dirk a great combination of the two skills? Yes, he most definitely is. But I honestly believe that Cesar Ramos is better. Springfield has struggled since the trade. The pitching is in shambles, but it was only a month ago when they had given up something like 3 runs in 6 games. I don't see the offense as any better. They have won some impressive blowouts, 16-5 type games, but more often struggle to get 2 or 3 runs. With Joe and Vernell they were more consistent. Dirk Lindros is a great player. I don't want to use the word potential because I think Dirk is just fine right now, but too much is expected of him, like always. I hope Anakin Solo and DeMario can develop as players without similar burdens thrust upon them.