

December 5, 1991

GREETINGS, LTBNL Owners, from the LEAGUE OFFICE!!
At long last, here is the 1991 LTBNL Season Wrap-Up Newsletter!
(Months in the making!)

Item One on our agenda is a hearty congratulations to **Dan's Fever**, the newly crowned LTBNL Champion, and our other 1991 money-winners, **Green Monsters**, **Karnold Nowledge**, and **Gregorian Chance**. You will find attached hereto, as one of the numerous appendices, the Final 1991 Standings, along with batting and pitching points breakdowns.

The Fever (nee "D. Moore Bid Truth") and the Chance (nee "Doug Outs"), storied franchises that date to the 1989 founding of the LTBNL, are both first-time money winners. Like our other money-winners, the Fever and Chance made adept use of the FAAB system and waiver wire. They also strengthened their squads through clever trades. And with the demise of the **QuagMyers** and **Ruthless Babes**, no LTBNL franchise has won cash in each of our three seasons.

Dan's Fever survived the loss of speed merchant Otis Nixon and rode strong second-half performances from Mitch Williams, Steve Avery, Larry Walker, and John Smoltz to the Yoo-Hoo Shower. The Fever, who finished with 35 of a possible 40 points in the batting categories, spent most of the season lurking just off the pace before grabbing the top spot for good in Week 23.

The turning point for the Fever probably came when they snagged righty John Smoltz from the floundering QuagMyers in Week 15. Many have attributed Smoltz's second-half performance to his work with a sports psychologist, but LTBNL followers know that the real reason for his remarkable turnaround was leaving the sinking Quag ship. Check out these numbers:

	IP	W	L	ERA	Ratio
Smoltz as a Quag:	125.0	5	10	4.90	1.416
After the Trade:	104.2	9	3	2.49	1.013

Perhaps the QuagMyers would have been better off had they given up the pitcher the Fever initially insisted on, Mr. Frank Viola. Viola, from the date of the Smoltz trade on, went 2-10, with a 5.73 ERA and 1.517 Ratio. Ouch.

But did the Fever mortgage their future to win the flag? To get Smoltz, an option year player, they had to surrender rising star Felix Jose (\$10B). Other Fever-ites in their option years are key players Mitch Williams, Brett Butler, and Kelly "One Year He'll Win the Cy Young" Downs. The Fever's inexplicable attachment to Downs (matched only by that of the Quags for Andres "The Big Card" Galarraga) makes it even more remarkable that they took the pennant.

At the last possible moment, Green Monsters nipped Karnold Nowledge for second place in the LTBNL. With two days left in the season, the Nowledge, unable to sleep, paid a late-night visit to the League Office, demanding that the League computer be turned on and the League stats immediately updated. Through games of 10/4/91, with two days of games to be played, the standings were thus:

	PTS	BEHIND
DAN'S FEVER	63.0	--
KARNOLD NOWLEDGE	60.0	3
GREEN MONSTERS	59.0	4
GREGORIAN CHANCE	57.5	5.5

Thus temporarily reassured, the Nowledge returned to a fitful sleep. As we all know now, however, the Monsters surged in the last two days to take second place, and the considerably larger check. The Monsters edged the Nowledge into third place in ERA, 3.409 to 3.443. Meanwhile, The Nowledge lost a point in batting average, while the Monsters picked up half a point in dingers.

How did it happen? Quite simply, the Monsters pitched their ample butts off, finishing with 35 points of a possible 40 in the hurling categories. In the last two days, the Monsters got shutouts from Terry Mulholland and Greg Maddux, plus strong performances from Anthony Young, Craig Lefferts, and Stan Belinda. All in all, they got 26 1/3 innings of one-run ball (a sparkling 0.34 ERA), lowering their team ERA from 3.466 to 3.409. The Nowledge allowed just two runs over 9 1/3 innings in that span, both by righty Jim Clancy in a single inning, lowering their ERA from 3.456 to 3.443, but it wasn't enough.

The Nowledge hit only .208 (11 for 53) with the pressure on in the last two days to fall into eighth place in batting average, while Andre Dawson had two solo Johnsons in Wrigley on the season's last day to pull the Monsters into a tie for third in that category.

The subject of the Monsters' dramatic surge brings to mind our first **Award** of the 1991 Post-Season. The "Dave Stewart Grace in the Face of Adversity" Award goes to the Monsters. Alert readers may remember that after the Reds' shocking four-game sweep of the mighty Athletics in the 1990 World Series, Stewart remarked that the A's were by far the better team, and that if the Series had been best-of-15 games, instead of best-of-7, the A's would have prevailed. A worthy successor to Mr. Stewart's display of sportsmanship, the Monsters' owner flatly stated that if there had been one more week in the season, by golly, he would have caught the Fever.

Gregorian Chance made a gazillion moves in an attempt to finish higher in the money, but wound up a disappointing (at least to them) fourth. In a desperate attempt to gain a point or two in the tight Wins category, they added pitchers Larry Andersen, Darryl Kile, and Tim Crews from Reserve as September Expansion players, and spent the last month of the season with a whopping (and unprecedented) thirteen active pitchers. The net result: The Chance were not able to gain even a point in Wins, and in fact, lost a point in Ratio. The Chance did, however, lead the LTBNL in one very important category: Transaction Fees. They single-handedly are responsible for the infusion of an amazing \$121.23 into the LTBNL Prize Pool, and thus receive the 1991 "Trader Jack McKeon Award for Most Dollars Least Effectively Spent."

Which brings to mind the somewhat painful subject of the 1991 LTBNL Financial Report, which you will find attached. Please review the bottom line, and if you owe, send your check to the LTBNL office at once. (EXCEPTION: If you are a money winner, you may choose to "net" your fees and winnings. And if you owe only a few dollars, i.e., \$10

or less, don't bother; we'll carry it over to next year.) Once all owners have coughed up their fair shares, League receipts should total \$908.17 (an all-time record!). League expenses are as follows:

- * Postage of \$49.15, charged only to those League Owners who received their weekly reports via mail.
- * On-line charges of \$60.00 (\$10 per month for 6 months). As you know, we receive our statistics from the USA Today SportsCenter, an on-line service.
- * Computer supplies; to wit, one box of paper and a new printer ribbon, at a total cost of approximately \$25-30.
- * Prizes: Giant checks, Yoo-Hoo, and perhaps, a new trophy (The Cup to be Named Later) for the LTBNL Champ. Costs unknown at this time, but minimal.

Which should leave in the neighborhood of \$750 to be distributed to the winners. (About \$375 (50%) for the Fever; \$187.50 (25%) for the Monsters; \$112.50 (15%) for the Knowledge; and \$85 (10%) for the Chance.) Of course, the cash can't be doled out until it comes in from the League Owners. The League Office urges you to pay up, if you owe, so that the winners may receive what's due them!

Now we move on to a topic only slightly less terrifying than League Fees. Namely, the 1991 LTBNL "Hypothetical League." The Hypothetical League standings (attached) attempt to evaluate our owners' performances in the 1991 Auction Draft, by showing what would have happened had all owners stuck with the 23-man rosters they put together that fateful day in early April, and not made any transactions all season long. Each owner's draft-day lineup of 23 active players was entered into the computer, and the standings were run using end-of-season statistics.

Obviously, the quality of owners' freeze lists enters into the equation, and it's clearly not realistic to intimate that any owner should stick with drafted players like Danny Jackson, Shawn Abner, or Paul Faries for any extended length of time, let alone the whole season. By and large, however, it seems safe to guess that the Hypothetical League correctly indicates that the Monsters had the best draft, and that the Fever passed them for the pennant by making shrewd moves throughout the season. Conversely, some owners, through bone-headed transactions, clearly managed their way downward in the standings. Sorry, but the truth sometimes hurts.

Our next topic: Who were the most effective Rotisserie pitchers and hitters of 1991? Surprisingly, this is not an entirely subjective question. Alert readers will recall that last year in the year-end newsletter, the League Office provided tidbits from the Player Rankings it developed based upon the "Patton \$" system. Happily, these rankings are available again, and the League Office is happy to share them for the price of this newsletter.

The Patton system attempts to evaluate the "worth" (or "earnings") of every Rotisserie pitcher and hitter in terms of dollars, based upon how much the player's statistics would have helped (or hurt) the average Rotisserie team in the Rotisserie categories. For example, we

all know that having a top base-stealer like Marquis Grissom (instead of having an average base-stealer) moves a team upward in the standings for stolen bases, and thus adds points to a Rotisserie team's final point total. The Patton system assumes that if a team had 14 average base-stealers, it would finish in the middle of the stolen base pack. (If the team had 14 Marquis Grissoms, it would, obviously, finish at the top). Players are ranked by how much they exceeded (or fell below) the average player in each of the categories. If you know, then, that a team has \$260 to spend in the draft, you can calculate the "worth" of the average player. By comparing various players' statistics to those of the average player, you can calculate the "worth," or "earnings" of each player. Hmmm.

That much said, here is the 1991 National League All-Rotisserie Team:

C	Benito Santiago, Doctor's Dilemma ("earned" \$20)
1B	Will Clark, Gregorian Chance (\$33)
2B	Ryne Sandberg, Brock's Bombers (\$34)
3B	Howard Johnson, Patrick Division (\$38)
SS	Barry Larkin, Karnold Nowledge (\$30)
OF	Barry Bonds, De-Moore-Alizers (\$42)
OF	Ronnie Gant, Green Monsters (\$34)
OF	Ivan Calderon, Nowledge (\$32)
LHSP	Tom Glavine, Monsters (\$38)
RHSP	Jose Rijo, Alizers (\$32)
LHRP	Mitch Williams, Dan's Fever (\$37)
RHRP	Lee Smith, Nowledge (\$48)

Bonds reigns for the second consecutive year as the most feared offensive force, but the more amazing story is the utter dominance of Nowledge flamethrower Lee Smith, given up for dead several years back by the Cubs. Smith (6-3, with 47 saves, a 2.34 ERA and 1.14 Ratio) earned \$10 more than the next-best pitcher. Nobody else in the NL had more than 31 saves. Hats off to the big guy, the 1991 LTBNL Most Valuable Rotissarean.

Other awards:

Best Free Agent Pickup:	Mike Maddux, Alizers ("earned" \$20)
Cheapest Power Source:	Darrin Jackson, Nowledge (21 HR, \$5 salary)
Best "Ratio" Pitcher:	Tom Glavine, Bombers (earned \$10 w/ Ratio)
Worst Hitter:	Eric Anthony, QuagMyers (earned negative \$3)
Worst Pitcher:	Danny Jackson, Bombers (earned -\$20)
Best Draft Bargain (P):	Tom Glavine, Monsters (paid \$7, earned \$38)
Best Draft Bargain (H):	Steve Finley, Babes (paid \$8, earned \$24)
Biggest Draft Bust (P):	Danny Jackson, Bombers (paid \$16, ernd -\$20)
Biggest Draft Bust (H):	Eric Davis, Quags (paid \$39, earned \$10)
Best Reserve Draftee:	Pete Harnsich, Bombers (earned \$25)
Most Underpaid Player:	Lee Smith, Nowledge (paid \$10, earned \$48)
Most Overpaid Player:	Randy Myers, Babes (paid \$42, earned \$5)
Best Player Not Owned:	Francisco Oliveras, Giants (earned \$9)
Worst Waiver Claim:	Shawn Boskie, Babes

(The Babes claimed Mr. Boskie on waivers on Tuesday, July 2, shortly before the Noon transaction deadline. Boskie started for the Cubs at Wrigley that afternoon. His performance was one the Babes will not soon forget: 3.2 IP, 8 ER, 12 H, 2 BB (19.64 ERA; 3.82 Ratio). By 4:00 P.M. that day, Boskie was a Babe in the

Sticks, having been shipped to AAA Iowa by the Cubs.)

Here are the 1991 LTBNL Records for Best & Worst Weekly Performances
(An asterisk denotes an all-time LTBNL Record):

Most Overall Points:	Nowledge, Week 15 (69 total pts for season)
Fewest Overall Points:	Bombers, Week 15 (13.5 tot. pts for season) *
Best Overall Week:	Division, Week 13 (73.5 tot. pts for week) *
Best BA Week:	Chance, Week 14 (hit .3654 for week)
Worst BA Week:	Bombers, Week 14 (hit .1826 for week)
Top HR Week:	Tie: Fever, Wk 23 & Nowledge, Wk 20 (13)
Top RBI Week:	Nowledge, Week 20 (52)
Top SB Week:	Monsters, Week 9 (17)
Top Wins Week:	Tie: Nowledge, Wk 3 & Fever, Wk 18 (8) *
Top Saves Week:	Tie: Chance, Fever, Nowledge (6) *
Best ERA Week:	Chance, Week 20 (0.938 in 48 IP) *
Worst ERA Week:	Quags, Week 20 (8.338 in 45.1 IP) *
Best Ratio Week:	Fever, Week 14 (0.900 in 45.1 IP)
Worst Ratio Week:	Quags, Week 20 (1.897 in 45.1 IP)

Our next-to-last topic: **Winter Rosters**. Those of you who are familiar with the Official Rules know that Ultra Rule XI requires that each team submit to the League Office on October 15 a list of 23 players as its Winter Roster. Any player left off a team's list becomes a "Winter Waivers" player, and is eligible to be claimed by the other teams, in inverse order of standings.

Obviously, we've already passed October 15, and not one team has submitted a Winter Roster! Accordingly, the League Office proposes that we belatedly put this rule into effect, with a deadline of December 30. As our Reserve rosters are smaller than the Official Rules dictate, in order to have anyone on Winter Waivers, several owners have proposed that the LTBNL rule be that each team may protect only 18 players as its Winter Rosters. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Here are your instructions: Attached you will find the latest LTBNL rosters, which have been edited to remove any "X," or Option Year players. As you know, any player that played out his option in 1991 is automatically returned to the free agent pool. From the remaining players on your roster, protect 18 (no more, no fewer). You must protect any player who is under a guaranteed long-term contract (i.e., a "C" or "D" player).

Call, write, or fax your list of 18 to the League Office by 12/30/91. Once the League Office has received all teams' lists, a Winter Waiver Wire communicate will be transmitted to all League owners. You will then have a week to claim any one player who tickles your fancy. (You may submit alternate choices, in case you get aced out by some scum team that finished below you in the standings.) The salary of a claimed player is \$10 or his current salary, whichever is higher. The transaction fee is a mere \$1 for each claim. For each player you are awarded, you must waive one. Any players waived during the first week of Winter Waivers become eligible for the second. The process ends when a week passes without any player being claimed.

Keep in mind that the salary information on the enclosed rosters is

1991 data. In other words, if you wind up retaining for 1992 a player who is listed as an "A," he will be a "B" next year. A player who is now listed as a "B" must either be returned to the free agent pool in April, retained as an option year ("X") player for 1992, or signed to a long-term contract. This year's "C" player is next year's "X" player. You may wish to be guided by these considerations in determining what stars and/or stiffes should comprise your Winter Roster.

Simple enough? Call the League Office with any questions or commentary.

Which leaves only the topic of **The Winter Meeting slash Awards Banquet**. No doubt you'll remember that last year we tried to have the darn thing in December, but got snowed out and wound up doing it in January. We are shooting for December or January again this season, and would welcome any suggestions as to date, time, and location. One strong possibility is the weekend of January 10-11.

Some sentiment has been expressed that we should, to coin a phrase, take the show on the road. Several owners have expressed interest in climbing in a big van on a Friday afternoon and driving north, roughly, to Cooperstown, New York. There we would meet the New York contingent (Eastern Division) of the LTBNL. Sightseeing could occur on Saturday, the Gala Banquet Friday or Saturday night, with a return trip home Sunday. The same weekend of January 10-12 has been prominently mentioned.

If you're interested in such a journey, give the League Office a call. Likewise, call if the aforementioned weekend is a bad time for you. Otherwise, we'll be in touch!