was a reserve renewal, and thus is not included in this summary. Other valuable reserve players included Ricky Bottalico of the Stripers, Chipper Jones of the Show Hoffs, Charles Johnson of the Monsters, and all of the other Reserve picks discussed above. In this chart, "\$" represents the amount "earned," "Sal" is the salary paid in the 1995 season (whether as a freeze or an Auction purchase), and "P/L" is the profit or loss. Part of the reason there are more overall losses than profits is that this survey does not include hundreds of players who "earned" a salary but were not on LTBNL rosters; inflation (the high cost of buying valuable players in the Auction, due to freezes) probably accounts for most of the rest.

Here are two top-ten lists to peruse while working on your '96 freeze lists: The top earnings by hitters and pitchers in 1995:

1995 Earnings

Hitters		Pitchers				
1 Dante Bichette	\$50	1 Greg Maddux	\$61			
2 Reggie Sanders	\$43	2 Hideo Nomo	\$35			
3 Barry Larkin	\$42	3 Pete Schourek	\$33			
4 Barry Bonds	\$42	4 Todd Worrell	\$31			
5 Sammy Sosa	\$41	5 Tom Henke	\$31			
6 Tony Gwynn	\$39	6 Mark Wohlers	\$29			
7 Larry Walker	\$38	7 Ismael Valdes	\$29			
8 Craig Biggio	\$37	8 Jeff Brantley	\$28			
9 Mike Piazza	\$35	9 Trevor Hoffman	\$26			
10 Derek Bell	\$34	10 John Franco	\$26			

Which brings us to another annual feature of this newsletter which many owners await each year with equal measure of excitement and dread fear: The always-entertaining, but rarely enlightening ...

Hypothetical League!

Y ou know it, you love it, you can't live without it -- and it's back for another year. It's the Hypothetical League, another hare-brained statistical analysis of little or no benefit wheeled out annually by the League Office.

As many of you know, the Hypothetical League purports to measure which teams fared the best in compiling their original 23-man Draft day rosters. As with the profits and losses discussed above, this study is based upon each team's roster immediately following the Auction. In theory, it tells us which teams had the best freeze lists and draft, by showing us where each team would have finished in the highly implausible event that each team made no changes to its roster throughout the season. To some extent, therefore, the Hypothetical League may also

be useful in telling us which LTBNL General Managers improved their teams during the season through trades, free agent moves and the like, and likewise which teams more or less managed their way out of contention. (Bear in mind, again, that many teams had no intention of sticking with their post-Auction teams anyway, since key contributors sat quietly on their Reserve rosters even as the Auction progressed.)

1995 Hypothetical League

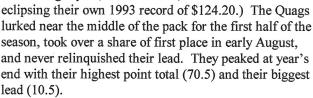
	BA	HR	RBI	SB	W	Sv	ERA	Ratio	TOTAL
1 Dan's Fever	12.0	8.0	9.0	1.0	4.0	10.0	9.0	11.0	64.0
2 Doug Outs	8.0	9.0	6.0	8.0	10.0	3.0	7.0	12.0	63.0
3 Gregory Peckers	11.0	5.0	10.0	6.0	9.0	4.0	10.0	7.0	62.0
4 Karnold Nowledge	7.0	6.0	7.5	10.0	12.0	1.0	8.0	10.0	61.5
5 QuagMyers	5.0	10.5	4.0	3.0	6.5	9.0	12.0	8.0	58.0
6 Wrecking Crew	9.0	4.0	12.0	12.0	1.5	6.0	5.0	4.0	53.5
7 Show Hoffs	10.0	3.0	11.0	4.0	3.0	11.0	2.0	5.0	49.0
8 Southpaws	2.0	7.0	3.0	9.0	11.0	2.0	6.0	6.0	46.0
9 Candy Stripers	6.0	12.0	7.5	7.0	5.0	5.0	1.0	1.0	44.5
10 Green Monsters	1.0	2.0	1.0	5.0	6.5	8.0	11.0	9.0	43.5
11 Underdawgs	3.0	1.0	2.0	11.0	8.0	12.0	4.0	2.0	43.0
12 Sol Train	4.0	10.5	5.0	2.0	1.5	7.0	3.0	3.0	36.0

But enough of this Hypothetical crap; let's get back to what really happened, with a review -- team by team and in order of finish -- of the 1995 ...

Team highlights and lowlights

The 1995 LTBNL champion **QuagMyers** survived a litany of injuries to capture their third title. Consider the key Quags who missed significant portions

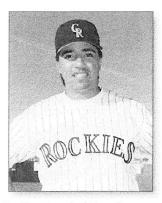
of the season due to injury: Jose Rijo, Gary Sheffield, Lenny Dykstra, Deion Sanders, Cliff Floyd, Hal Morris. The Quags were forced to scramble all year, using a leaguehigh 51 players while adding a league-high \$72 in transaction fees to the prize pool. (The Quags led the LTBNL in total spending for the third straight year, with \$133.35,



How did they do it? We have already noted that a large part of the Quags' offense was the Coors Field trio of Bichette, Galarraga, and Castilla, all of whom the Quags purchased in the 1993 Auction. But the 1995 edition of

the Quags was actually a stronger pitching team. For the season, the Quags averaged 35.3 pitching points, and they did not have fewer than 40 pitching points anytime after Week 13. They finished first in ERA and Ratio, third in saves, and fourth in wins. The staff was anchored by the other Dodgers' rookie righthander, Ismael Valdes, whom the Quags acquired from Dan's Fever during spring training -- a trade that struck many LTBNL owners as mighty curious at the time it was made. Also aiding the cause were bullpen ace John Franco, given up for dead not long before, the always under-appreciated Shane Reynolds, and Mark Leiter, who was picked up in the Reserve phase. The Ouags dealt for bullpen help late in the season, picking up Tom Henke and Rod Beck just prior to the trade deadline. These deals helped gain the Quags three places in the saves category. But not every trade worked out well: David Justice, perhaps feeling some lingering pain from his nipple-piercing, went 9 for his first 65 Quag at-bats (.138). And don't even get us started on Willie Greene.

The Quags will have Bichette and Galarraga back for the 1996 season, but Sheffield is gone, and in one of the Alltime Bonehead Moves, the Quags, in a fit of penny-

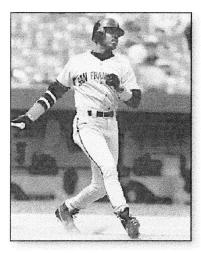


Castilla: Turned a \$31 profit

pinching, declined to offer a multi-year deal to Vinny Castilla prior to the 1995 season.
Castilla, who probably earned as much as any one-dollar player in the history of the LTBNL (\$31), will cost significantly more in the 1996 Auction. Looking ahead to 1997, what will heartless LTBNL owners force the Quags

to pay to reacquire Andres "El Gato Gigantico" Galarraga? The record is \$69, just so everyone has something to shoot for.

At the All-Star Break, charter LTBNL franchise Karnold Nowledge was mired in eleventh place, with a mere 42 points. But within the hearts of the proud Nowledge raged a quiet confidence. The Nowledge refused to panic, and declined to tinker with the team they'd carefully slapped together. For the second straight year, they made no trades, and aside from promoting or demoting J.R. Phillips every couple of weeks, they phoned in very few transactions. Within five weeks of their low ebb, the Nowledge had moved from eleventh to second place, within 1.5 points of the lead. Unfortunately, they were unable to close the gap any further, and spent the season's last eight weeks holding



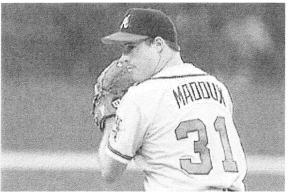
Bonds: Pricey freeze, but worth it

down second. Behind key contributors Hideo Nomo and Pete Schourek, and with a starting staff that was solid despite the presence of a certain pile of soot, the Nowledge won the wins category with relative ease. Their offense was, as always, paced

by Barry Bonds (.294-33-104-31), whom the Nowledge had frozen at \$49. Considering that all three \$50 first-rounders were major busts, and that Bonds wound up earning \$42, Bonds was a quality freeze. Steve Finley (earned \$28) and Bernard Gilkey (earned \$24) were other standouts. The Nowledge had no bullpen. They completely punted saves, picking up only four on the season, and finishing a distant last in that category. That they finished solidly in the money with 60 points proves once again that it's quite possible for a team to contend for an end-of-season check even if it punts an entire category. Congratulations to the Nowledge on their return to the money after a two-year absence.

an's Fever has been an LTBNL powerhouse since the League's inception, taking a Yoo-Hoo shower on three occasions. In 1995, they put together a thirdplace finish, impressive considering the manner in which their season began. The Fever spent four of the season's first six weeks as the LTBNL cellar-dweller, a span that included a 31 point showing in Week 4, the lamest by any team this season. They finally escaped the basement in Week 7, and made their strongest move in Week 18, moving from seventh to second, after which they held on to a share of the money for the remainder of the season. On the year, despite the contributions of McGriff and top-ten hitters Mike Piazza (.346-32-93) and Derek Bell (.334-8-86-27), the Fever were only ninth best in the LTBNL in hitting (24.5 points), including a distant lastplace finish in steals. So how did they finish in the money? They were the second best team in pitching (34.5), despite the fact that they had only one starter who earned more than \$5. To the League Office, the only logical conclusion that can be drawn from this is that Greg Maddux once again carried their collective ass.

Last year in this Newsletter, we told you how Maddux, in 1994, had by far the best Rotisserie season of any player since we started keeping track, and most certainly had one of the best seasons ever by a starting pitcher. (He earned \$73 in 1994). The Fever owned him at \$33B, and did not even swallow hard when inking him to a new two-year deal (\$38C). In 1995, Maddux won his fourth straight Cy Young award, and again led the NL in virtually every imaginable category: ERA (1.63), Ratio (0.810), complete games (10), shutouts (3), innings pitched (209.2), winning percentage (.905, he went 19-2), strikeout/walk ratio (7.9), lowest slugging percentage allowed (.258), lowest on-base percentage allowed (.224) -- we could go on and on. He earned \$61, some \$26 more than the next-best starter (Hideo Nomo). Anyway,



Maddux: Rotisserie god

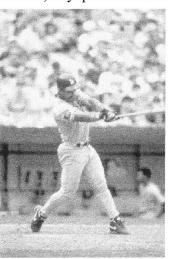
we here at the League Office started wondering how the 1995 Fever would have fared without Maddux. So just for fun, we decided to recalculate the stats and standings after replacing Maddux on the Fever's roster with the most nearly average starting pitcher we could think of. We settled on Mark Portugal, who went 11-10 with a 4.01 ERA and 1.327 Ratio, earning \$9. (The LTBNL ERA for 1995 was 4.07 and the Ratio was 1.345, and according to Patton, the average pitcher earns \$8.67). We figure the pedestrian Portugal would be a fairly solid number 3 or 4 starter on most teams. Here's the verdict: With Portugal on their staff in place of Maddux, the Fever would have finished last instead of ninth in wins, last instead of third in ERA, and eleventh instead of third in Ratio. The total difference is 19.5 points, which would have landed the Fever in a three-way tie for 10th place (i.e., tied for last).

The Gregory Peckers were the strongest offensive team in the LTBNL in 1995, finishing with 39 hitting points (their high-water mark of the season). Thanks to another big year from Tony Gwynn (.368-9-90-17), they led the LTBNL in batting average (which is a category, as the Peckers' owner likes to point out). They also strung together second place finishes in RBI and stolen bases. The Peckers averaged nearly 32 hitting points over the course of the season, despite a woeful period in May when they bottomed out with 16.5 points.

By contrast, their pitching, aside from Tom Glavine (earned \$25) and Jaime Navarro (earned \$21), was disappointing. Injuries to Bret Saberhagen, John Hudek, and Bobby Munoz foiled their best-laid plans. Still, the team climbed steadily in the standings from the end of May to the All-Star Break. They stood tenth in Week 4, tied for sixth in Week 5, and then between Weeks 8 and 11, they surged from fourth to first, gaining one place in the standings each week. But first place is no place for complacency, and the Head Pecker has never been one to rest on his laurels. So the Peckers began dealing, first trading Moises Alou and Roger Bailey to the Underdawgs for Darren Holmes and Tony Longmire, and later sending Holmes, Andy Ashby, Chad Fonville, and Eddies Taubensee and Williams to the Sol Train for Ramon Martinez, Chris Hammond, Craig Biggio, and Todds Hundley and Zeile. In retrospect, the Peckers might have been better off retaining Ashby and Holmes, as most of the players obtained in the trades turned in disappointing second-half performances.

The Peckers hung on to the top of the standings for a while, sitting in either first or second for six straight weeks through Week 15. All told, they spent 3 weeks in

first. In Week 17, they fell from third to eighth, before working their way back to fourth in Week 22. As play began on the last day of the season, Sunday, October 1, the Peckers stood in third place, half a point ahead of the Fever, and three points ahead of the Doug Outs. Unfortunately for the Peckers, Saberhagen, sore shoulder and all. took the hill that day at Coors Field, and it was

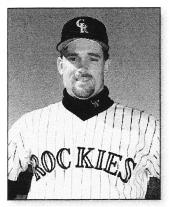


Mondesi: Too bad outfield assists don't count

not good (2 IP, 7H, 8R, 6ER, 1BB, 3K). The Peckers lost one place in ERA and two in Ratio (while picking up half a point in homers) for a net loss of 2.5 points on the season's last day, falling into the now-legendary fourth-place tie with the Doug Outs.

Not to beat the bejeezus out of a dead horse, but the League Office couldn't help but notice that while the Peckers were losing points on the season's last day to wind up in the tie, the **Doug Outs** actually *gained* half a point. Investigating further, the League Office found that the Doug Outs moved up one place in ERA, from sixth to fifth, but lost half a point in stolen bases when the

QuagMyers picked up their 120th steal, breaking a tie with the 'Outs for seventh place. That steal was picked up by noted speedster Howard Johnson, and was his first and only steal of the year. Johnson, who had been languishing on reserve, had been activated for the week by the Quags, who were taking no chances in hanging on



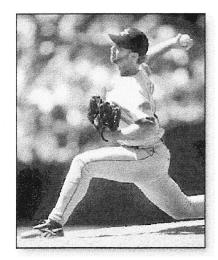
HoJo: Merchant of speed

to their lead, a move which no doubt inspired some chuckles when made. Had HoJo not been called up, however, the Doug Outs would have taken fourth place in the LTBNL outright.

For Doug May, owner of the 'Outs, the tiebreaker loss to brother Greg was all the more heartbreaking given that the Doug Outs had the

strongest team in the LTBNL over the course of the entire season. The Doug Outs averaged 60.7 total points for the season, outpacing the QuagMyers, who averaged 60.3. The 'Outs held a money position in all but five weekly standings reports this season, and unfortunately, one of those five was the final standings. They never

dropped below 53.5 points or seventh place all season, and held first place for six weeks. The Doug Outs must have felt that every move they made would backfire on them, a frustration perhaps best epitomized by their handling of putative ace Doug Drabek. The 'Outs had protected Drabek



Drabek: Somewhat inconsistent!

at \$27, encouraged by the way he had bounced back from a weak performance in 1993. In early '95, however, Drabek was getting pounded. By Week 10, the Doug Outs decided to give Drabek a rest, and reserved him. He responded by pitching a 3-hit shutout. With some trepidation, the Doug Outs recalled him in Week 11, whereupon Mr. Drabek pitched 3 innings, surrendering 8 hits, 3 walks and 6 earned runs. In Week 13, with Drabek's ERA at 5.51 and Ratio at 1.620, the Doug Outs

dealt him to the Underdawgs, and Drabek cavalierly picked up 2 wins in his first week as a U-Dawg, including another 3-hit shutout.

And consider the case of Bryan Rekar, a rookie pitcher picked up by the Doug Outs as a \$24 free agent after he was inserted into the Rockies' rotation in July. On August 4, in his first start as a Doug Out, Rekar hooked up with the Padres' Brian Williams, just recalled by the Candy Stripers, for one of the most memorable box scores of the year. Here are the lines for the two starting pitchers:

	IP	Н	R	ER	BB	K	Pit	ERA
B Williams, SD	1.2	6	8	8	5	1	68	6.52
Rekar, Col	2.2	9	7	7	2	1	63	5.19

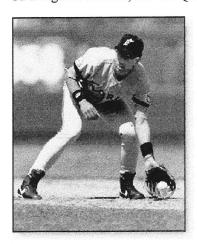
It took these two guys 131 pitches to get 13 outs. The final was 14-12 Rockies, and at various times the score was 7-0, 7-1, 8-1, 8-7, 9-7, 9-8, 10-8, 11-10, 13-11, 13-12, and finally 14-12. (Surprise! This game was played at Coors Field.) The Doug Outs waived Rekar in Week 18, and of course, Rekar promptly pitched 15 scoreless innings over his next two starts. On the bright side, Ron Gant (.276-29-88-23, frozen at \$12, earned \$32), Ken Caminiti (.302-26-94-12, earned \$32) and Ray Lankford (.277-29-88-23, earned \$30) all had big years, as did John Smoltz (12-7, 3.18, 1.240, earned \$21), who rebounded smartly from off-season elbow surgery. And the Doug Outs tied for the best free agent buy of the year when they picked up reliever Rich DeLucia in Week 8. DeLucia led the NL in relief wins with 8, and finished 3.38, 1.202, earning \$12. (Derrick May of the Astros, picked up by the Peckers a week later, also earned \$12).

y far the hottest team at season's end was the Candy Stripers. The Stripers, who spent eight straight weeks dead last in July and August, finished sixth with a bullet. They picked up 20.5 points in the standings (moving from 36.0 to 56.5) over the final six weeks. Their sixth place finish was even more surprising considering they had the LTBNL's lowest average point total over the course of the season (45.0). Fueling the Stripers' surge was strong late-season pitching. Remarkably, 17 of the 20.5 points gained were in the pitching categories. The Stripers moved from eighth to second in wins, eleventh to fourth in ERA, and last to eighth in Ratio. Hot pitchers over the last few weeks included Pat Rapp (10-1 with a 2.14 ERA in August and September), Mike Hampton, and especially rookie Mets' hurler Jason Isringhausen, who went 9-2 with a 2.81 ERA and 1.280 Ratio after being summoned by the Mets and Stripers. In only 14 starts, he earned \$14. The Stripers knew they had something special in their second round Reserve pick when they saw a story by Peter Gammons on ESPN shortly before the Mets called him

up. Gammons said Izzy had one of the sharpest and most devastating curve balls he's seen; the League Office saw this report and can vouch for its accuracy.

But we all know that the Candy Stripers care not a whit about their pitching. They live to succeed in only one Rotisserie category: Home runs. It is widely believed that the Stripers would happily forego the chocolate shower if doing so meant they could be assured another year's reign as Dinger Queen. In '95 they never stood lower than second in homers. They took over the lead in Week 3, and didn't relinquish it until Week 17, when the Quags briefly went up by three. The lead see-sawed back and forth until, with one week to go, the Quags held an imposing six home run lead. As you might expect, the Stripers paid close attention to the home run race over the season's last week. The Archives Division of the League Office has obtained a tattered scrap of paper, stained with chili and diet Coke, on which the Stripers' owner meticulously calculated her hitters' progress in their efforts to catch the Ouags. Thus we are able to provide, in excruciating detail, this report on the final week of the epochal dinger race.

Both the Stripers and the Quags were shut out on Tuesday, September 25, but on Wednesday, Hal Morris and Dante Bichette went long, and the Quags went up by eight with four days to go. On Thursday, the Stripers exploded: Larry Walker hit two, and Matt Williams, Ryan Klesko, and Tony Tarasco hit one each. On Friday, Morris homered again (what got into him?) and Andres Galarraga hit his 31st, and the Quags again were up by



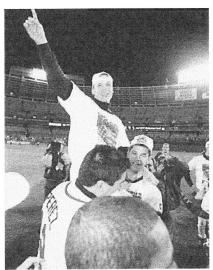
Arias: Have banjo, will travel

four. That would be it for the QuagMyers, who hit only .213 as a team the last two days. Walker homered again on Saturday and Sunday, giving him 36 for the year and four for the week. Then Williams hit another and the Stripers trailed by one. On her scrap of paper, the Stripers owner tallied the sad news:

Nine for the week, 176 for the year, and one homer short of the Quags. She went to bed that evening a defeated, seemingly deposed Dinger Queen. But in the morning paper, she came upon a miracle -- a homer that somehow hadn't shown up on SportsCenter or Baseball Tonight, by the unlikeliest of candidates, that noted slugger Alex

Arias, who clobbered only his third of the season, his first since May, and fifth of his 4-year major league career. Given that they won the LTBNL by 10.5 points and are generally magnanimous by nature, the Quags were glad to share the title with the Stripers, but are not certain they relish being referred to by the Stripers as the "Co-Dinger Queen."

The seventh-place **Show Hoffs** had most certainly the strongest showing of their three-year LTBNL tenure in 1995. Their season average total points mark of 55.3 was fourth highest in the League. Their peak came relatively early: They were in the money six of the first nine weeks. In Week 9, the Show Hoffs climbed into



We're No. 7!: Chipper is carried off field by jubilant Show Hoffs teammates

first with 71.5 points, the highest point total of any team all season. But they lost 11 points in a week, falling to fourth, and were unable to climb higher than fourth any time for the rest of the season. They did have the League's hottest hitters at the end of the season, adding 3.5 hitting points

in the season's last week, climbing into a tie for second place in total hitting points with the Nowledge at 32. Standouts were Mark Grace (.326-16-92, earned \$30), Jeff Conine (.302-25-105, earned \$28 and a \$14 profit), and Shoulda-Been Rookie of the Year Chipper Jones (23 HR, 86 RBI, earned \$21). The Show Hoffs were rewarded by Jones for their patience. They originally acquired him in the 1993 expansion draft from the Fever's roster, signed him to a two-year deal, watched

him tear up the International League in 1993, and then suffered when he tore up his knee prior to the '94 season, just as it appeared he had a regular job nailed down. In 1995, at \$10F, Jones had a big rookie season for the Show Hoffs, who are sure to make a strong effort to buy him back in the 1996 Auction. The price will be



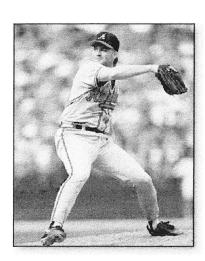
Worrell: Earned \$31, best among relievers

high, especially given the way Jones hit on national TV in the postseason: .364 with three homers and eight RBI in 14 games.

The Show Hoffs' bullpen was not the problem in 1995. Behind Todd Worrell (32 saves, 2.02, 1.111, earned \$31 and a \$13 profit) and Trevor Hoffman (31 saves, 3.88, 1.162, earned \$26, profit of \$11), they nipped Dan's Fever by one to win the saves category. Starting pitching was another story. They finished next-to-last in wins, and did not have a reliable starter after John Smiley. They lost 5.5 points in pitching after the All-Star Break, and will need to come up with a bell-cow starter to take the ball if they plan to contend in '96.

I n all fairness, the **Southpaws** did not have a lot to work with when they entered the League at the start of the 1995 season. After all, they had taken over the decimated and neglected roster of the woebegone Patrick Division, meaning that some of their more impressive freezes included Jerry "The Governor" Browne and Danny Jackson. The Brad Clontz fiasco notwithstanding, they did reasonably well, as evidenced by their eighth place finish in both the Hypothetical League and the real live LTBNL. Although they did not challenge for a money spot -- their high water mark was seventh place, on two occasions -- they did make a strong move in the right direction at season's end, moving from the basement to eighth over the last three weeks. And late-season trades provided them with some solid freezes for '96 (Ashby, Holmes, Taubensee, Fonville). They also deserve special mention for some excellent Reserve list picks: John Cangelosi (earned \$15, second highest among Reserve list hitters) and Jerome Walton (earned \$11) were premium role players in 1995, and Dodgers prospects Chan Ho Park and Karim Garcia look good for the future.

The Southpaws' friendship with Kent Mercker, alluded



Mercker: Deep Throat no more

to earlier in the discussion of Brad Clontz, was the subject of some special concern in late August. Green Monsters' owner K.C. Green reported to the League Office that he had received a cryptic voice mail message from the Southpaws on August 23, to the effect of: "I am calling to offer you

a trade involving someone on my team who plays a lot, for someone on your Reserve roster who doesn't play much at all." The Monsters, quite understandably, were intrigued. They scoured their Reserve roster and reached the conclusion that the player the Southpaws were interested in must have been Braves' backup third baseman Jose Oliva. At the time, Oliva was hitting .156, and although he had hit 5 homers, he was certainly one of the worst hitters in the league. (For the season, he hit .142, "earning" negative \$3, worst in the NL). Before the Monsters could call the 'Paws back to see what they had in mind, however, the Braves dealt Oliva to the Cardinals, who had given up on another bust, Scott Cooper. At the time, all appearances were that Oliva was going to the Cards to become an everyday player, that his Rotisserie value would be increasing significantly, and that the 'Paws were trying to use this information to take Oliva from the Monsters in one lopsided heist of a trade, during the negotiation of which, presumably, the relevant insider information would not have been disseminated to all parties. The Monsters demanded an investigation into whether inside information was obtained by the Southpaws from Mercker relative to the Oliva trade, which was finalized by the Braves only hours after the voice mail message. And we here at the League Office can say to the Southpaws only this: Nice try!

The Wrecking Crew were the yo-yo team in the League to be Named Later in 1995. The Crew were quite strong in the early going, holding first place in

three of the first six weekly standings reports. In Week 3, they held an 11 point lead over the second place Sol Train, the biggest lead by any first-place team all season. Then, between Week 7 and Week 11, they lost an amazing 29.5 points in four



Wrecking Crew co-owner Chris Benintendi charts his team's performance

weeks, dropping from first place to last place like the proverbial rock. They lurked around eighth or ninth for the next month and a half before suddenly appearing in a tie for fifth in Week 18, just half a point out of the money. They were very much a factor in the race for the final money spot until falling to ninth in Week 21 and eleventh in Week 22. In the season's final week, they rallied to finish ninth, passing the Green Monsters and the Underdawgs.