



CAMEL DROPPINGS

Ishtar is a Star!

Celebrity is a fleeting star. Whether that star will shine again is unsure. But the Camels of Ishtar certainly relished in the light this fine day. We never asked to be the poster team for 16-inch softball in Chicago, but we gladly accepted the responsibility!

Tribune reporters swarmed our arena of play to capture us in our magnificent glory! Okay, there was one guy with a camera, but that isn't how we felt. Especially after seeing our photogenic power players splashed on pages 12 & 13 of the *Red Eye* on Friday.

Kudos to Paula, John and Tom for making us all look good.

As for the game, we re-engaged our drinking buddies from the week prior, Saints and SYN-ers, in mortal combat. We must have been motivated by all the attention from the reporter because we earned our first genuine victory. Solid play by just about everyone led to an 8-6 rout.

Our esteemed foes celebrated by hitting their vast cache of booze afterwards. You have to hand it to them, they don't really care what happens as long as they can celebrate it.

With the Camel's record now at 50% and our story told to Chicago's commuting masses, Ishtar is poised to sweep the rest of the season and/or garner the scorn and jealousy of everyone. Either way, they will fear us.

Would it be too much to ask to arrive at our next game on a float like Apollo Creed in *Rocky*?



Photog Erik is awash in Camels!

What Next?



Paris started out on the hotel's softball team

Now that we are famous, what next? Sex video scandals? Our own reality show? I can just see GAM and Mike fighting over the last Kit Kat bar at the Ishtar loft downtown.

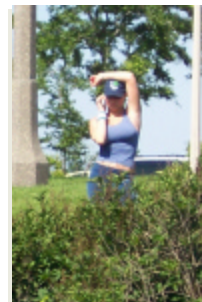
No matter what hap-

pens, we have to stay grounded to our roots. Let us never lose that grit, that smell, and that prevailing thought that there are always going to be opportunities for us to look stupid on camera.

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Dork Opponent of the Week



Well, she might be a dork. But we were mostly captivated by her sultry poses while talking on the phone in the bushes.

Hey, isn't that where Ty relieved himself the week before?

Player Profile—Kevin Madden



“Dad, is this the best team you could get on?”

Kevin holds a special place on the Ishtar as its last remaining active

original member. Now on the team for twelve years, some wonder if Kevin’s tolerance for the ever-changing roster of yahoos will continue to stand strong.

Kevin “Love Spud” Madden has distinguished himself at third base and at the plate. He used to share glory in battle with IOB Hall of Fame pitcher Shannon Hanks, who now is his wife and mother to their daughter Sydney (and uber Ishtar supporter extraordinaire.)

Kevin has seen all the trials and tribulations of our fine organization. Why, some say he will gather all

the youths of the neighborhood around to spin yarns of epic feats by some yahoos in a far away land (well, where they live, it IS very, very far away!)



Kevin ponders the early years when he could get up quicker.

Schedule/League Info

Next Game:

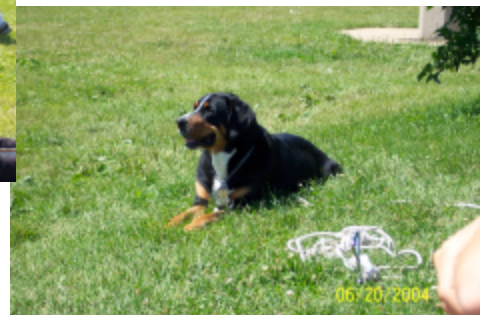
July 11 02:00 111 - Indy Team #112 Vs. 101 - Ishtar on Beta Grant Park Field 16

Record:

We are 2-2! Whoop-de-doo! Ishtar is currently tied for fifth. Slammers are undefeated.

Picture Potpourri

“You’re a superstar. Yeah, that’s who you are...”



Manager's Musings

by John Sangimino

For those of you who thought Ishtar was just a force to be reckoned with on the softball diamond – you should see us in the field of political debate. Between the recent Ty/Tony incident on Lincoln Avenue and GAM/Mike going toe-to-toe on Kari's porch this weekend...I'm ready to sign us up for some local air time on community access cable. (Granted, the Jerry Springer bouncers would probably need to be available for insurance purposes.)

With all this politically-charged discussion in the air, I couldn't help but wonder..."If I was sworn in as President tomorrow (begin suspension of disbelief here) and had to appoint every member of Ishtar to a position in national government—how would I do it?"

Well, for the sake of our country (not to mention the fate of humanity) I pray that this decision never befalls any of us. But if it did...and I had about 15 minutes to think about it...then this is what I would do:

Batting 1st, Secretary of State— Tom Ellis.

Tom is naturally diplomatic, well-groomed, and the tallest member of our team. I think it's good to be tall when trying to get other countries to do what we want. In moments of disagreement, Tom could just stand up and slowly repeat himself...(I think this would work well).

Batting 2nd, Secretary of Transportation— Laura Berger.

Laura travels more than any person I know, which is difficult to do without transportation. She's also an excellent driver, and actually braves the Eisenhower commute every morning on her way to work...(which alone over-qualifies anyone for such a position).

Batting 3rd, Attorney General— Mike Madden.

Mike isn't a lawyer, but he did take the LSAT once (and he knows people who are lawyers). Besides, he's very good at looking stuff up, double-checking things, and can tie a tie all by himself. He would make a fine Attorney General.

Batting 4th, Advisor to the Chief of White House Events — Kari DeVille

Kari is the most gracious hostess that I know, and she makes a mean-ass chocolate chip cookie. I wouldn't stick her with the actual planning job itself, but she would have input to every White House social function and a premo seat at all correspondents dinners. (Plus I like knowing that the cookies will be nearby.)

Batting 5th, Secretary of the Treasury— Greg Miller

GAM is not only fiscally conservative, but his propensity for generating data-intensive spreadsheets makes him a natural for this position. (Plus I think he'd find a way to somehow make restaurant coupons legal tender.) So long as his mug stays off the actual bills themselves, I say he's our man in the Treasury Department.

Batting 6th, Secretary of Health & Human Services — Paula Halfman

Paula has done an exemplary job of keeping both Mike and Chloe alive and well for some time now. Next chance you get, note the alert look in their eyes, the obedient temperament, and the nice shiny coats. The rest of the country (man and beast alike) should be so well cared for...and look so good.

Batting 7th, Director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)— Amir Uddin

Amir is techno-savvy, and both trustworthy/sneaky at the same time. One minute he'll be dropping off CostCo Power Bar shipments to non-members in some back alley...and the next he'll lie through his teeth that the fake owl in Wrigley Field's west grandstand is totally real. (I want this guy on our side.)

Batting 8th, National Security Advisor— Nicole Pagoria

Nicole has not only survived countless layoffs at her job, but since Tony makes her park on the street in Wicker Park (i.e., so his precious Mini Cooper can have the deeded spot) she's learned a

"Plus she used to work with GAM, and actually still agreed to play with us — talk about optimism."

thing or two about security. I also like the idea of Tony having pillow-talk input to this position without actually getting to make any of the final decisions (kinda like how it works now).

Batting 9th, Chairman of the Federal Reserve— Kevin Madden

Kevin already pays close attention to economic trends and forecasts, as well as a portion of my retirement funds. What's good enough for me is good enough for the rest of the country (we sink or swim together) and I'm confident that he would always make economically responsible decisions – especially with respect to my personal investments at the time.

Batting 10th, Secretary of Labor— Cathy Smith

Poor Cathy has been traveling for months to support the giant Bank One/J.P. Morgan-Chase Manhattan merger. Not to mention that she's been lugging the Ishtar bat bag for years now. No one embodies the spirit of hard work and perseverance better than she. (My only request is that she somehow find a way to change Labor Day into "Labor Week" – we could all use a national week off.)

Batting 11th, Chief of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF) — Ty Sherman

Ty knows an awful lot about alcohol, and an



Running for bases sure beats running for office!

awful lot about tobacco. Firearms I'm not so sure about (but two out of three ain't bad). Plus he's pretty tight with Mike Halfman...and I suspect that guy's done some huntin' in his time. (Suit up, Chief Sherman...your navy wind-breaker has been ordered.)

Batting 12th, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations — Katrina Sopkovich

In her first year on Ishtar, Katrina has managed to neither piss-off, ostracize, alienate, nor antagonize anybody else on the team. (Plus she used to work with GAM, and actually still agreed to play with us – talk about optimism.) In light of global attitudes toward the U.S. right now, we could use someone like her in the U.N.

Batting 13th, Secretary of the Interior — Mike Halfman

As alluded to earlier, I suspect this guy's done a little huntin' (and fishin') in his time. Plus he hails from behind The Cheese Curtain, likely owns a few plaid flannel shirts, and has probably logged more hours on snowmobile trails and in VFW halls than the rest of us combined. (In safer hands, the country's interior could not be.)

Batting 14th, Secretary of Education — Ann Kellner

Ann is the only licensed teacher on the official roster this year...and she actually has the letters "ED" incorporated into her personal email address. (If that doesn't qualify somebody to be Secretary of Education under this administration then I don't know what does.)

And last but not least...Batting 15th, White House Press Secretary — Tony Yaniz

Tony likes to use big words, wave his hands around, and make intellectual mince meat of anyone bold enough to engage him in political debate. (Granted, he runs like a field mouse at the first sign of physical danger – but nobody's perfect). I trust that, regardless of my policy, Tony will always give the answer he thinks is best...and have at least 3 books, 2 video documentaries, and 1 Wall Street Journal article to back it up.

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VOLUME 2

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[Any names or likeness to persons
living or dead is purely deliberate.]

This issue is dedicated to
Mike Madden. Congratulations
on your engagement to
Erica, Mr. 'Bachelor-No-
More!'



Droppings

Lovely little humorous gems to disturb your day:

I went to San Francisco.
I found someone's heart.
Now what?

Protons have mass?
I didn't even know they were
Catholic.

Teach a child to be polite
and courteous in the home and,
when he grows up,
he'll never be able to
merge his car onto a freeway.

Two CAN live as cheaply as one....
for half as long.

The cost of living hasn't affected its
popularity.

Marriage changes passion. Sudden-
ly you're in bed with a
relative.

Is there another word for synonym?

Is Marx's tomb a communist plot?

It's not an optical illusion.....
it just looks like one.

I saw a woman wearing a sweat
shirt with "Guess" on it.
So I said "Implants?" She hit me.

Now that food has replaced sex in
my life, I can't even

Picture of the Week

1. Tom: "Gee—I hope this ends up on page 12 of this Friday's *Red Eye!*"
2. Tom ponders the nuances of fame...["I hit leftie because it's my good side."]
3. Photog: "Uhh, Tom, can you try to look a little more athletic?"
4. Laura: "Geez! What does a girl have to do to get her picture taken?"
5. Tom: "Hey mister, aren't you pointing that camera a little low?"



get into my own pants.

A good friend will come and bail
you out of jail...but, a
true friend will be sitting next to
you saying, "Damn...that
was fun!"

**"Damn
...that
was
fun!"**

