

Jery Zaslove / NO NAME BASEBALL TEAM OR
"291 4868"

|

... Hello ...
no he's not here
yes this is his number
well he's not here anymore it WAS his number
 ?a baseball question?
well, I'm not sure whether he does but I know him

I use his phone

maybe i could help

yes he knew him
probably very well
i know he's written about it

i can't give you his number but I could pass the question to
him

you are who? give me a break. you

can't be serious
try me

centerfield?

wallace stevens because he's quick even though fat and
dives well
left field?

rene char
you wonder why? - because he knows the walls
right field?

pope -
why? because he deserves it and who needs him?
first base?

rabelais -
why because the first baseman talks to the
otherside. And he's gargantuan -

second base? emily bronte -
because she does double plays
third base? nerval -
because he can throw without effort for duplicity
shortstop? let me think - good hands, instincts, nervous:
well how
about
proust?
no? who then?

dante?
yours

okay this one is all

we've got to have a catcher-
tolstoy -
he's intimidating and has the long
You think who for catcher?

view.

... thomas jefferson?
o - and charlotte corday as backup?

Yes we need pitchers . . . they are the prose of the world:

Yes since Bob Feller never wrote more than a few fast
stories, and Hal Newhouser and Early Wynn just wrote fables
we'd better get some mirror images of them . . .

hey who are you really? Satchel Paige? my ear

he's as invisible as ellison.

(I'm beginning to like this - this number has a history
I'd better not put this guy on hold he might be offended.)

Well: what about these four:

screwball pitcher - Jarry when he's not running to the toilet with
his bad stomach in his hand

curveball expert when he's not messing around thinking, pound

fastball, 110 mph - genet - yes I'm sure he's fast

beautiful junk ball - celine and you can't tell what he's
thinking but he is

yes that's my staff - and for long relief - ? not sure, maybe
dostoevsky -

and then in the bullpen, h.d. - can go short or long.

(okay we can trade melville for blake - this is getting
serious)

Say who are you?

“The masked man and the angel of mercy”?

Well if that's who you are then I'm Lily Tomlin

No she did not play with the Memphis Chicks -

Listen wherever you are this is no
joke Memphis Chicks were not a girls team
do you know Pete Gray the one armed
centrefielder?

(do you know anything about basketball?)

I'll pass on the question to him

(O my soul he even wants an Umpire)

No I've never inherited anything of his but a phone
number
and some ghosts on the book shelves keep bugging me but keep
it to yourself.

Yes, I'll tell him.

Area code? - well let me tell you it's kind of obscure:
don't have an area code we
it's all in the imagination.
Maybe he'll call you back.

II

What's the name of this team?
Who owns it - everything has a home -
Hannah Arendt?
I heard she lost her soul in the black forest
and found it again and again and again and . . .

*Should have asked if it is any consolation for him that over
50% of Americans believe that baseball is played in heaven.*

and then I forgot to ask him

who's the other team?

And the manager?

I would have suggested lorca

and now it's too late

that's a question

from the otherside

of this noname team this can go on and on aint no
justice in it.

may, 1995