

Lives by a simple code: If you never make a trade, you can never be accused of making a *bad* trade.



**Tim Purpura**

Amazingly, his batting average has gone *up* since he's been on the disabled list.



**Adam Everett**

His chase toward 3,000 hits has been hugely entertaining, if you think the **Bataan Death March** was hugely entertaining.



**Craig Biggio**

Hasn't blown a single save since June 19. When he, ummm, got put on the 15-day disabled list.



**Brad Lidge**

## THE DOG DAYS OF SUMMER

Summer is upon us here in Houston, and it's become somewhat obvious that the Houston Astros will offer no relief from the torture. They have been playing dull, mediocre, losing ball all year, and they show no signs of changing. Yes, we know they've mounted big comebacks in the second half of previous seasons, and that the NL Central Division is so bad the 1962 Mets would have a good chance in it. But there's nothing much indicating things are going to turn around this time. Enjoy the summer, folks.

That \$100 million contract? It apparently did not include a clause specifying that you have to run out ground balls.



**Carlos Lee**

Hometown discount? You get what you pay for.



**Woody Williams**

He is definitely *not* sulking over Lee's huge contract. He's not hitting, either. **But** don't worry — at least it's not because he's sulking.



**Lance Berkman**

Even the team's official Bright Spot comes with a downside — with every hit, fans ask why the hell it took so long to get this guy to the majors.



**Hunter Pence**

His supporters say the powers-that-be are forcing him to keep putting Biggio in the lead-off spot. We think, though, that he's convinced that one of these years it just might work.



**Phil Garner**