

Royals, Cubs among hopefuls

Mediocrity in baseball offers slim pickings

The Pirates in the National League East, the Giants in the National League West, the Red Sox in the American League East and the Athletics in the American League West.

I figured it would be best to start by telling you who I'm not predicting to win division flags.

Secondly, now that Major League Baseball's spring training is upon us, it is time to tell you who will be playing in the post-season.

And my picks aren't the consensus picks.

National League East: In Pittsburgh, the Pirates are looking less like the 'We are family' team of '79 and more like the 'We are a fluke' team of '91. Get them out of the steel-city and put them in the kneel-city, since the Bucs will be looking up from the bottom of the division.

The Phillies are a question mark because of shaky pitching. St. Louis is a bigger question mark because of no pitching.

Until Montreal becomes more appealing for players with more than two years experience, there will be no World Series for the Ex-pros.

By gaining Vince Coleman's speed

and losing Darryl Strawberry's mouth, the Mets are on course for another N.L. East title — but no home-run hitters means no division flag at Shea airport.

The Pick: Chicago. The off-season acquisition of George Bell gives the potent Cubs the added power source they've needed to reach the postseason.

National League West: Why does everybody think the Giants are so great? This is the same overrated team that played at Candlestick last year, with the exception of the addition of Bud Black, Dave Righetti and the sporadic Willie McGee, who can pick up their Giant paychecks along with their social security checks.

San Diego would be fine if they could ever stop making trades. The only thing rising in Atlanta is the crime rate.

The Astros will have a fine starting rotation of Mike Scott-Jim DeShaies-Mike Scott-Mark Portugal-Mike Scott.

There are not many reasons why Cincinnati can't win this division. Another Big Red dynasty is possible in Cincinnati, but with part-time



Jeff Singer

super star Eric Davis upset with management, the Reds will be starless as well as pennant-less.

The Pick: Los Angeles. Opening the checkbook has opened the door for another division title for the Dodgers. The new-look blue crew of Strawberry, Bob Ojeda, Kevin Gross, etc. is destined for greatness.

American League East: This division is steadily improving and, sorry for Boston, .500 teams will no longer win the A.L. East.

Japanese imports will hurt the Motor City this year, as in the new line of Toyotas and Cecil Fielder's expectations.

In New York, first baseman Don Mattingly and the Yankees are set — well, at one position.

Milwaukee has too many rehabilitating bodies. Cleveland has too many healthy bodies.

In Baltimore, Glenn Davis could be the power source the Orioles have

needed to put them at the top of the division, yet lack of production from the supposed 'phenoms' will keep Baltimore as a bridesmaid.

The Pick: Toronto. There is no way the flock of the Skydome will lose out in baseball's worst division. Adding Joe Carter and Roberto Alomar in their mega-trade with San Diego, as well as stealing away the A.L.'s most underrated outfielder Devon White will lift the Jays to their perch above their feathered foes, the Orioles.

American League West: In Oakland, the infield's batting average resembles a bowling average, therefore the dynasty by the Bay will end with three.

The White Sox are this side of Pittsburgh as baseball's biggest fluke. Instead of purchasing a new stadium, a new team should've been bought.

Since George Bush Sr. now owns the Middle East, the president's son will own a Texas team in the middle of the West.

It's a good thing the Twins play under a big top, because this season will be a circus in Minnesota.

This is a rebuilding century in Seattle.

With the emergence of one of the best pitching staffs in baseball, the

Angels have the opportunity to give owner Gene Autry one last chance at a World Series, but adding Dave Winfield and Dave Parker three years too late won't do it.

The Pick: Kansas City.

Even without two-sport superstar/strikeout king Bo Jackson, the Royals have proved like their other counterparts that money wins titles. Buying Kirk Gibson's contract will be profitable because he still has many heroics left in him, and Bret Saberhagen and Mark Davis should return to their Cy Young forms.

As for post-season honors, both leagues have clear-cut contenders for the Most Valuable Player awards.

M.V.P.: American League, Dave Henderson, Oakland, for being able to play in the same outfield with the two biggest egos in baseball. National League, Craig Biggio, Houston. He'll be the only Astro to hit more than three home runs this year.

Even if you think these picks are as absurd as the players' enormous salaries, one thing is certain: America's national pastime is a lot better with the absence of George Steinbrenner.

Singer is a sophomore news-editorial major and a Daily Nebraskan sports staff reporter.

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Exorcism

Continued from Page 7
you want to see Keith Moody jumping instead of moping.

But because of repetition, The Curse hurts you less and less each time.

So much has The Curse's effect diminished with me that instead of swearing at coaches or players after a loss, I look ahead and wonder who will be there for next year's battles against the demonic ghost.

And so goes the proposal: As long as we've got the coaches, and as long as Francis Allen knows the way to the promised land, Osborne, Pettit and Nee would each do well to get the road map.

If just one of them figures out how to eke out a national championship, Nebraskans will finally get that pressure win we've been looking for.

The Curse has got to choke sooner or later.

Adkisson is a sophomore news-editorial major and a Daily Nebraskan sports staff reporter.

Arizona loses Bowl

KOHALA, Hawaii (AP) — Despite misgivings by many of them, NFL owners adhered to the wishes of commissioner Paul Tagliabue and stripped the 1993 Super Bowl from Phoenix on Tuesday because Arizona does not have a holiday to celebrate the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr.

But as the result of a phone conversation between Arizona Gov. Fife Symington of Arizona and Tagliabue, which took place last weekend, the owners tentatively awarded the 1996 game to Arizona, which will hold a second referendum on the game in November 1992.

PRACTICE roundup

Women's gymnastics: Illness has made practice difficult, Coach Rick Walton said. CeCe Ocel came down with the flu Tuesday, and Lori Phillips developed bronchitis Monday. "We're just going to have to keep working hard," Walton said.

Women's tennis: Practice went well Tuesday, Coach Bob Hampton said. The team is preparing for conference play, which will begin the week after Spring Break. The squad is working on consistency, Hampton said, as well as recuperating from some minor injuries.

Men's tennis: The Cornhuskers practiced outdoors as Nebraska gets ready to battle several Florida schools over Spring Break. Coach Kerry McDermott said the lineup has changed at No. 2 doubles. David Moyer will team with either Anthony Kotarac or Joey Salerno. Kotarac has a sore ankle, but he will be able to compete in Florida, McDermott said.

— Jeff Singer

Rec Scoreboard

Results from Monday's games.

Men's basketball	Fraternity A Delta Upsilon 5, Alpha Tau Omega 2
All University	Fraternity B Sigma Phi Epsilon 4, Delta Tau Delta 0
Dribblers by forfeit over Heavy C & the Boyz; The Law 79, Selleck 8100 B 42; Burnt Toast 61, Harper 3B 52; Bar Stools by forfeit over Alpha Gamma Rho; The Hosers 76, Sigma Phi Epsilon A1 53; Untouchables 67, Delta Tau Delta 64; Beta Theta Pi 64, Abel 11 A2 48.	Fraternity C Chi Phi C 1, Alpha Tau Omega 0 game protested.
Women's basketball	Independent A Roscoe Pounders 4, FCA 0; NU Tennis 2, Roscoe Pounders 1.
All University	Independent B Oatmeal 3, EX-PTG 2.
Holy Hits 41, Schramm 7 32; Alpha Omicron Pi 49, Your Loss FYI 41; Alpha Phi 2 by forfeit U.N. Nuns.	Residence A Cather 3 2, Schramm 8 1.
Indoor soccer	

SPORTS BRIEFS

Nine NU athletes make academic All-Big Eight honor roll

Nine Nebraska athletes have made the first team on the Phillips 66 academic All-Big Eight honor rolls for men's swimming and diving, women's gymnastics and men's gymnastics.

Seniors Ryan Bell and Peter Williams, junior William Murray

and sophomore Doug Garland from the Cornhusker swimming and diving team received first-team recognition, and Craig Bilyeu and Sean Larson were honorable mention selections.

Senior gymnasts Nita Lichten-

stein and Lisa McCrady and sophomore gymnast CeCe Ocel were honored, with teammate Karla Cash receiving honorable mention.

For the men's gymnastics team, senior Brad Bryan and sophomore Josh Saegert made the first team.

Coaches' comments prompt reprimand from commissioner

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Nebraska's Danny Nee and four other Big Eight men's basketball coaches have been reprimanded for comments they made about officiating during this year's Big Eight men's basketball tournament, league Commissioner Carl James said.

Nee, Johnny Orr of Iowa State, Roy Williams of Kansas, Norm Stewart of Missouri and Joe Harrington of Colorado were reprimanded.

Under conference regulations, coaches, players and game administrators are not permitted to give public comments about officiating at the games.

The conference would not disclose the coaches' specific comments about officiating.

"The Big Eight Conduct Code and the National Association of Basketball Coaches Code of Ethics include the principles of honoring all professional relationships

with athletes, colleagues, officials, media and the public by basketball coaches," James said in a news release. "These codes request that coaches model common courtesy, fair play and sportsmanship while treating all persons with dignity and respect."

Orr also was reprimanded earlier this season. With his second offense, he automatically is suspended for Iowa State's first regular-season game next year.

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