Martinez wins Cy Young award again

■ The Red Sox player is one of three pitchers to win the award in both leagues.

NEW YORK (AP) - Pedro Martinez became only the fourth pitcher to win the American League Cy Young award unanimously and joined Gaylord Perry and Randy Johnson as the only pitchers to win the honor in each league.

Martinez, 23-4 with a 2.07 ERA for the Boston Red Sox, received all 28 votes for 140 points in balloting by the Baseball Writers' Association of

for 54 points, followed by New York Yankees reliever Mariano Rivera with 27 points and Cleveland pitcher Bartolo Colon with 14.

The only previous unanimous AL winners were Denny McLain (1968), Ron Guidry (1978) and Roger Clemens (1986 and 1998).

Seven NL pitchers have won in a shutout: Sandy Koufax (1963, 1965 and 1966), Bob Gibson (1968), Steve Carlton (1972), Rick Sutcliffe (1984), Dwight Gooden (1985), Orel Hershiser (1988) and Greg Maddux (1994 and

He was the star of the All-Star game Baltimore's Mike Mussina was at Fenway Park, fanning Barry Larkin,

next, getting 16 seconds and six thirds Larry Walker and Sammy Sosa in the was 1.1-3 runs better than the secondfirst, then striking out McGwire and Jeff Bagwell in the second around a grounder by Matt Williams.

He followed with the worst start of his career - nine runs and 12 hits in three 2-3 innings against Florida. He then went on the disabled list because of a stiff right shoulder and didn't start again until Aug. 3.

"I went seven years without missing a start," he said then. "Hopefully, it will be another seven before I miss another one.'

He went 8-2 in the second half, finishing with big leads in all the major pitching categories. He had five wins more than anyone else, and his ERA

best in the league, New York's David Cone, who finished at 3.44.

Martinez led the AL with 3 1/3 strikeouts. Anaheim's Chuck Finley was second with 200.

The ending of the season was disappointing. Martinez strained a back muscle and left in the fourth inning of Boston's postseason opener, and Cleveland rallied to win.

Martinez pitched six hitless innings of relief in Game 5. He entered in the fourth inning with the score 8-8, and the Red Sox went on to win 12-8.

Then he sent the Yankees to their only loss in 19 postseason games, beating Clemens 12-1 in Game 3 of the AL

2.07

Championship Series. Martinez struck out 12 in seven shutout innings, a Boston record for the postseason.

"I don't know if we would be in the postseason without him," pitching colleague Bret Saberhagen said. "He's the heart and soul of this team. You can't say enough about him."

Martinez also is the co-favorite for the AL MVP award with Cleveland's Manny Ramirez, who had 165 RBIs. That award will be announced

Tauke to leave stronger through career with Nebraska

TAUKE from page 12

about how upset she was at the media for not talking to her about how she felt about the whole deal - that she freaked when she opened up a sports page with a story about her using comments from Pettit and other players about her. - and she hadn't even been interviewed.

She wasn't afraid to say she thought Pettit hated her, that her teammates hated her, that her parents hated her and that she hated herself for being a failure because she wasn't setting the world on fire on the volleyball court for the first time since elementary school.

And now, she's not afraid to say she was wrong about all of it.

"I took it pretty hard and took it personally," Tauke said. "It took a month for me to feel OK. I think I'm a lot stronger person now.

"I learned a lot about society and about sports. For so long, I put so much of my identity into my sports so people would like me. Sports stories you read are all about performance: That's all people want to know about - how good are you playing. If you're playing great, great. If you're not, then you don't deserve to be recognized. People expect perfection out of athletes, especially at Nebraska. My God, we're all 18, 19, 20 years old

"I've been thinking about that a lot. People don't realize we do so many more things. I visited first graders at a school, and they didn't care, didn't know, I don't play volleyball anymore. They just thought, 'she's so tall, she's so smart.' It made me feel good.'

She's not afraid of what her legacy is or what other people think of her. And she's not afraid to cry about any of this.

Tauke cried a lot when remembering the steps of the last month. Certainly, that's understandable. As a broadcast journalism major, she understands what a perfect sports story is all about.

Before this season, she thought maybe her story would be one of them, and she'll be the first to tell you this was not how the script was supposed to end.

The script was supposed to end kind of like this: Tauke, who set the freshman record for block assists (that Holmquist might just break) and put together two more solid seasons behind All-American Megan Korver after that - was finally going to be the go-to blocker.

Top that with her high-flying emotion and a talented group of freshman, and you've got yourself a veteran court leader of a national title-contending team - one jubilant hero going out with a bang and into the record books.

But the script took a wrong turn about halfway through the season, for both Tauke and the team. Nebraska lost more than it was used to. The lineup got mixed up. Tauke was losing her game and self-confidence.

'I kept asking myself why, why, why? Why did I miss that block? Why can't my shots go down? I wasn't missing before.'

Then, Pettit dropped the bomb before the Oct. 6 Iowa State match -Holmquist would be starting, sophomore Jenny Kropp would be rotating in and Tauke would be sitting. That was shocking news to Tauke, considering the coach hadn't given her any clear signs her "spot" was in jeop-

'It was like if you were in a relationship with someone, and everything seemed OK and neither person said anything to the other person

about anything going wrong," Tauke said. "Then all of a sudden they tell you they cheated on you. I thought to myself, 'Where did I go wrong?

"I don't relate to him very well. Since I was a freshman, I always thought he hated me, that he thought to himself, 'Who is this annoying freshman running around?' I know it's not that way with everybody. A lot of times, he doesn't talk to me. A lot of the reason I took it so hard was that I thought everything was OK.'

Then came the period where fidence. Tauke understandably grew mad. Mad at Pettit for benching her. Mad at Holmquist for beating her out. Mad at the press for not approaching her.

Even mad at the press for the way they wrote about Holmquist, how they made it seem like Holmquist was playing just because Tauke was struggling. Fact was, Holmquist is just plain good, Tauke said.

But the shock finally went away, as did Tauke's frustration. She realized her parents were there for her, and they are, at every game - home

She apologized to Holmquist for not being more supportive, that Holmquist did nothing wrong. It healed both of them and the team.

The best part of the recovery process for Tauke has been understanding how important she is to the team despite not being on the court. Just because she lost her "spot," a word she's sick of hearing, didn't mean she lost her influence or com-

"I'll just stand there and watch and think to myself, 'how is that wimpy little girl on the other side of the net beating our players," Tauke said. "So I'm there to tell them 'come on, you're better than this.' I can do this, so I know you can. It feels good to help out that way, to give them con-

I learned a lot about society and sports. For so long, I put so much of my identity into my sports so that people would like me."

> TONIA TAUKE NU volleyball middle blocker

"The win at Kansas State (a threeset victory on Sept. 22) was the most exciting game I've been a part of here, and I didn't play a single point," Tauke said. "I was so excited because I knew I helped Mandy (Monson) attack. I helped Greichaly (Cepero) serve. When Nancy (Meendering) listens to me and does what I said, it makes me feel good she respects my knowledge.

"It's something I wish people would understand about (the bench players). We're Oklahoma in practice. We're Kansas State. We help (the starters) win. If we go to the Final Four or win the national championship, I will know that I was a big part of this."

So the world isn't over for Tonia Tauke. So she won't set the record. So she won't play that much, barring injury or poor play from Holmquist

Her parents don't hate her, her teammates don't hate her, she doesn't hate herself. She wants to make it painfully clear to everyone who reads this column: she's OK!

But she's still unsure what Pettit thinks of her. She'll always wonder. She's not as worried about it anymore. She's sure that someday she'll run into her former coach and just say, "What's up, Coach P?" and all the

tension and silence that plagued their relationship will go away.

"He told us the other day that maybe his flaw is that he wants everyone to be their best, and he wants it to happen in four years," Tauke said. 'What he realizes and what we'll

realize is it might not happen in four years, but it will happen. We'll be the best at what we do. He's glad he's part of that process. I won't think of him in a negative light when I'm gone. He taught me a lot. He pushed really, really, really hard - to my breaking point. But because he did that, F earned a lot about myself."

No, the script didn't go as hoped or planned but, unlike before, Tauke can handle it. And after experiencing this past month-and-a-half, Tauke said, for the rest of her life, she'll be able to handle anything.

"Who gets out of college like I will and say they feel like they can do anything?" Tauke said. "I feel like I'm 21 going on 35. I feel older, more responsible, stronger, more confident. I know what I'm doing.

'I'll watch people on Oprah who are 40 years old who don't know where they are in life. That will never be me. When you experience something like Nebraska volleyball, you can look back and say, 'I know I did it. I know what it's like to shake in my boots."

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